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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

EDITED BY

N. B. KINNEAR.

VOLUME XLVI.

SESSION 1925–1926.

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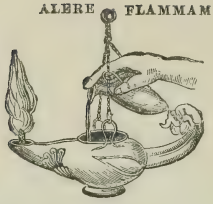

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RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET.

PREFACE.

The total number of attendances at the meetings of the Club during the past Session was 326 members and 107 guests, a total of 433. Since no May Meeting was held, owing to the General Strike, this compares very favourably with the previous Session.

As in former years the principal feature of the 'Bulletin' has been the description of new forms, and during the past session sixty have been described. These were contributed principally by Col. and Mrs. Meinertzhagen, the results of their study of the Himalayan Avifauna, which they have recently returned from investigating on the spot; Mr. Stuart Baker; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; and Mr. G. L. Bates, who, while here on leave from the Cameroons, has devoted his time to the study of the collections made during his last trip in the mountains of the north-western part of that country. Attention must also be called to the interesting field-notes attached to the descriptions of the last-mentioned member.

Lord Rothschild and Dr. Hartert exhibited and described before the Club an extinct bird of the family Drepanididæ from the Sandwich Islands, which, strange as it may seem in these days of intensive study, had remained a hundred and twenty years in the Vienna Museum without anyone recognising it as new!

Mention must be made of some valuable notes on Weaver-Birds by Mr. W. L. Sclater, the result of his study of the group for the 'Systema Avium'; the exhibition and remarks on a remarkable dark variety of the Common Pheasant by the Hon. Masauji Hachisuka; and the interesting account by Mr. Walter Goodfellow of his recent trip to the Central

Division of Papua, from which we were glad to learn that the different kinds of Birds of Paradise are holding their own.

The Session was brought to a close with an address by Dr. F. M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History on the new biological station on Barro Colorado Island in the Panama Canal zone, followed by some interesting remarks on the bird-life of Chili. The lecture was illustrated by a number of beautifully coloured lantern-slides, and was much appreciated by all the members present.

The Club has suffered a severe loss in the deaths of Mr. J. Davidson, Mr. M. J. Nicol, Mr. H. Kirke Swann, and Mr. C. J. Wilson. Before going to Egypt Mr. Nicol was a regular attendant at our meetings and a frequent contributor. Mr. Kirke Swann, well known for his knowledge of the *Accipitres,* was in the middle of publishing a valuable work on this interesting group of birds.

N. B. KINNEAR,
Editor.

London, July 1926.

RULES

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(*As amended, October 8th,* 1924.)

I. This Club was founded for the purpose of facilitating the social intercourse of Members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Any Member of that Union can become a Member of this Club on payment (to the Treasurer) of an entrance fee of *One Pound* and a subscription of *One Guinea* for the current Session. Resignation of the Union involves resignation of the Club.

II. Members who have not paid their subscriptions before the last Meeting of the Session, shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be Members of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

III. Ordinary Members of the British Ornithologists' Union may be introduced as Visitors at the Meetings of the Club, but every Member of the Club who introduces a Member of the B. O. U. as a Visitor (to the dinner or to the Meeting afterwards) shall pay *One Shilling* to the Treasurer *on each occasion.*

IV. No gentleman shall be allowed to attend the Meetings of the Club as a guest on more than three occasions during any single Session ; and no former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription or any other cause shall be allowed to attend as a guest. Ladies are not admitted as guests.

V. The Club shall meet, as a rule, on the Second Wednesday in every Month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee. But should such Wednesday happen to be Ash Wednesday, the Meeting will take place on the Wednesday following. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects shall be read, specimens exhibited, and discussion invited.

VI. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the B. O. C. shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and distributed gratis to every Member *who has paid his subscription.* Copies of this Bulletin shall be published and sold at *Two Shillings* each to Members.

Descriptions of new species may be added to the last page of the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin'; but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

VII. The affairs of this Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of the Chairman, who shall be elected for three years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term, the Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of one year, but shall be eligible for re-election, with four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two others be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee, nominated for the ensuing year, shall be circulated with the preliminary notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

Amendments to the Standing Rules of the Club, as well as very important or urgent matters, shall be submitted to Members, to be voted upon at a General Meeting.

VIII. A General Meeting of the B. O. C. shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

IX. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

COMMITTEE 1925–1926.

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* Elected 1924.
N. B. Kinnear, *Editor of the 'Bulletin.'* Elected 1925.
Dr. G. C. Low, *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.* Elected 1923.
H. M. Wallis. Elected 1923.
C. B. Ticehurst. Elected 1924.
C. Oldham. Elected 1924.
G. M. Mathews. Elected 1925.

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W. L. Sclater.	1918–1924.
H. F. Witherby.	1924–

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Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1920–1925.
N. B. Kinnear.	1925–

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D. A. Bannerman.	1918–1919.
Dr. Philip Gosse.	1919–1920.
J. L. Bonhote.	1920–1922
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1922–1923
Dr. G. C. Low.	1923–

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170 Walker, Dr. A. Hope; The Common, Cranleigh.

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175 White, S. J., F.Z.S.; 17 Philpot Lane, E.C. 3

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Worms, Charles de; Milton Park, Egham, Surrey.

185 Wynne, R. O.; Foulis Court, Fair Oak, Hants.

New Members for the Session .. 9
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NOTICE.

[Members are specially requested to keep the Hon. Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses, and Members residing abroad should give early notification of coming home on leave.]

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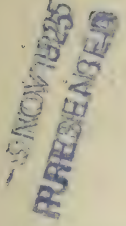

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCXCIX.

The two-hundred-and-ninety-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, October 14th, 1925.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; C. E. Baker; E. C. Stuart Baker; F. J. F. Barrington; Miss M. G. S. Best; P. F. Bunyard; E. P. Chance; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; N. Coltart; D. Cox; R. H. Deane; A. H. Evans; J. M. Fleming; Major S. S. Flower; Hon. M. Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; L. M. Jopling; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; G. C. Lambert; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe; N. S. Lucas; Admiral H. Lynes; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; G. M. Mathews; D. W. Musselwhite; T. H. Newman; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; C. H. Roper; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; H. Stevens; C. G. Talbot-

Ponsonby ; W. H. Thorpe ; G. de H. Vaizey ; H. M. Wallis ; J. Sladen Wing.

Guests :—C. F. Belcher ; A. C. Bell ; General R. M. Betham ; J. S. Dyson ; G. Jones ; T. Okanioto ; P. B. Smyth ; F. C. Tiarks ; V. O. Williams.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, immediately preceding the Dinner. Mr. H. F. Witherby took the Chair. The Minutes of the last General Meeting were read and confirmed. The Financial Statement, which had already been printed and circulated, was laid before the Meeting. This was duly passed. Dr. Low reported that the following members had resigned from the Club :—Mr. R. W. Chase, Dr. W. Eagle Clarke, Capt. J. N. Kennedy, Mrs. J. P. McKenna, Miss Munt, Mr. E. F. Stanford, Mr. E. Valpy, Mr. G. R. Humphreys.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear, recommended by the Committee for the post of Editor, in place of Dr. Percy R. Lowe whose time of office had expired, was unanimously elected.

Mr. G. M. Mathews was elected a Member of the Committee in place of Mr. D. A. Bannerman, retiring through seniority.

Dr. Low read a short report of the steps taken to acquire Dungeness as a bird-sanctuary, For the moment, he said, the matter was in abeyance.

Dr. Low also reported on the steps taken to acquire a room for the Club. He said that the Fly-Fishers' Club could not give accommodation in their Piccadilly premises, but that if eventually they took other premises elsewhere they might consider sub-letting a room. It was suggested that the Members present should look out for possible accommodation elsewhere.

Mr. Bunyard brought up the question of the price of separate copies of the 'Bulletin.' Dr. G. C. Low said that, according to a Minute of the Committee of the 9th May,

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Twelve months' Financial Statement, 1st September, 1924, to 31st August, 1925.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance in Hand, 1st September, 1924:—			By Printing and Distribution of Publications and Bulletin		128 6 5
Cash in Bank	212 14 9		„ Hire of Lanterns for Annual Dinner with B.O.U., etc.		6 3 6
In Hands of Treasurer	1 0 0		„ Contribution to Zoological Society Record		11 5 0
		213 14 9	„ Miscellaneous Expenses, including Audit Fee and Postage		7 6 4
„ Entrance Fees of 14 New Subscribers.....	14 0 0		„ Refund of Excess Subscription		– – –
„ Subscriptions—189 Members	198 9 0				
		212 9 0	Total Payments		152 15 3
„ Sales of 'Bulletin' .....,		40 2 0	„ Balance in Hand, 31st August, 1925:—		
			Cash at Bank	311 11 10	
			In Hands of Treasurer	1 18 8	
					313 10 6
		£466 5 9			£466 5 9

We have compared the foregoing Statement with the books and vouchers of the British Ornithologists' Club for the year ended 31 August, 1925, and certify same to be in accordance therewith. We have also verified the balance of Cash at the Bank.

23 Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C. 4.
19*th September*, 1925.

W. B. KEEN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

1923, each member was entitled to six free copies, if the contributor asked for them.

Mr. MATHEWS moved that "the six free copies of the 'Bulletin' to contributors be continued, but that the latter must give notice to the Editor when their manuscripts are handed in if they require such." Mr. EVANS seconded this, and the motion was duly passed.

Mr. STUART BAKER proposed that a rebate of 25 per cent. be allowed to members on purchase of any publications of the B. O. C., but that not more than two copies of such publications be sold to any one member, unless ordered before printing. Mr. MATHEWS seconded this, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The Meeting then adjourned to Dinner.

Committee, 1925–1926.

H. F. WITHERBY, *Chairman* (elected 1924).
N. B. KINNEAR, *Editor* (elected 1925).
G. C. LOW, *Hon. Sec. & Treasurer* (elected 1923).
H. M. WALLIS (elected 1923).
C. B. TICEHURST (elected 1924).
C. OLDHAM (elected 1924).
G. M. MATHEWS (elected 1925).

Proceedings at the Meeting following the Dinner.

Mr. WITHERBY exhibited two young in down and a clutch of four eggs of the Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*) from Central Spain. These were found by Mr. & Mrs. Witherby and Señor A. Gil Llletget, the young (a few days old) on May 26, 1925, and the eggs (incubated two or three days) on June 3 on sand-banks by a small tributary of the River Tietar in Señor Gil's estate called Rincon, in the south-western corner of the Province of Avila. Rincon lay between the foot-hills of the Sierra de Gredos and the plains, and was only some 1200 feet above sea-level. Nests of the Common Sandpiper in North Spain and North Portugal had been recorded many years ago by Mr. W. C. Tait and Mr. Abel Chapman, but whether it bred further south in the Peninsula had always been uncertain.

Mr. Witherby also exhibited an adult and juvenile (just out of the nest) of the Redstart, obtained on June 11, 1925, at Guisando on the southern side of the Sierra de Gredos, about 2500 feet above sea-level. The bird proved to belong to the North African form of the Common Redstart (*Phœnicurus phœnicurus algeriensis*), which Mr. Witherby had found breeding in 1920 in Portugal at about the same latitude, but some 130 miles to the west. These were the only breeding specimens of this species from the Peninsula which Mr. Witherby had seen.

Mr. Witherby further exhibited an adult female Goshawk, trapped on a nest and eggs by Major W. M. Congreve on May 10, 1925, at Almoraima in South Spain. Mr. Witherby expressed his great indebtedness to Major Congreve for having taken so much trouble to obtain this bird, since it was the only specimen of a Spanish Goshawk, so far as he knew, in this country. Mr. Witherby had seen one other adult—a male, shot near Cuenca on June 10 and now in the Madrid Museum. Major Congreve's specimen compared exactly with examples from Sardinia of the form *Accipiter gentilis arrigonii*, the most constant characters of which were the darkness of the upper parts and the wide dark bars on the underparts, as well as the small size. Mr. Witherby had been unable to compare the Madrid specimen with others, but he thought its upper parts were even darker and its underparts more closely barred than in Major Congreve's specimen. The measurements of these two Goshawks were :—

	Wing.	Tail.	Bill from cere.	Tarsus.
♀ ad., May 10, 1925, Almoraima, S. Spain.	346	250	25	78
♂ ad., June 10, Cuenca, E. Spain.	293	205	22	55

MM. Jean Delacour and Pierre Jabouille sent the following description of a new Sultan Tit from French Indo-

China, which was exhibited on their behalf by Dr. Percy Lowe :—

Melanochlora gayeti, sp. nov.

Male and female. Resemble generally *Melanochlora sultanea flavocrista* (Lafres.), but differ in having the crest entirely black and in their smaller dimensions.

Iris brown ; bill black ; legs plumbeous.

Types in coll. M. Jean Delacour. ♂ & ♀. Bana (Central Annam), altitude 1900 metres, 24th May, 1924.

Specimens examined. 1 ♂, 1 ♀, from Bana.

Measurements: *Male.* Wing 100 mm. ; tail 91 ; tarsus 22 ; culmen 14. *Female.* Wing 97 mm. ; tail 89 ; tarsus 21 ; culmen 14.

Note.—Named in honour of M. V. Gayet-Laroche, who obtained the birds and sent them to us. Bana is an isolated mountain with a small plateau which is becoming a hill-station, twelve miles west of Fourane. Only one pair was seen during three months. They were on the top of a tree ; the female was shot first, and the male came back calling a few minutes afterwards.

Dr. Percy Lowe also exhibited and described a new race of Petrel as follows :—

Thalassidroma tethys kelsalli, subsp. nov.

This continental form only differs from the typical insular form *Th. t. tethys*, originally described by Bonaparte from the Galapagos, in having smaller wings ; but I think the fact that birds found along the western shores of Peru and in the neighbourhood of Panama appear to run smaller than the form from the Galapagos is sufficiently interesting to be recorded, especially as exactly the same thing occurs in *Oceanites gracilis* (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. xli. p. 140, 1921). The race is named in honour of Lt.-Col. Kelsall, who brought back a specimen in spirit from the St. George Expedition.

Measurements : The only two specimens in the B.M. Coll. from Peru have a wing-measurement of 124 and 125 mm.

in the male and female respectively. Col. Kelsall's bird from Panama measured 124 mm.

Galagagos examples measure as follows:—Three males 133, 135, and 136 mm.; four females 138, 130, 132, and 137 mm.

Type in the British Museum. ♀ ad., Ancon, Peru, 12th May, 1913; *ex* Brewster-Sanford Coll., Reg. No. 1921.7.3.10.

Mr. C. B. Kloss forwarded the following descriptions of two new subspecies:—

Dryobates hyperythrus annamensis, subsp. nov.

Paler below than any of the other known forms; very different from the dull Chinese race (*D. h. poliopsis* Swinh.). Birds from the South Shan States begin to approximate, and one specimen of several from Manipur examined is very similar; otherwise Burmese birds (Tounghoo, etc.) belong to the East Himalayan form *sikkimensis* (Ticehurst & Whistler, Ibis, 1924, p. 473).

Specimens examined. Four males and one female from Daban, South Annam, 20–27th March, 1918.

Type in the British Museum, No. 1925.7.11.1. Adult male collected 20th March, 1918, at Daban, by C. Boden Kloss. Total length 225 mm.; wing 125. Iris crimson; maxilla black; mandible greenish-yellow; feet pale leaden.

Lalage fimbriata indochinensis, subsp. nov.

Larger than *L. f. polioptera* (Sharpe) of Cochin-China and South-west Siam (wings 110–117 mm. against 104–110) and darker, especially beneath. Males with lower breast and abdomen grey instead of whitish or greyish-white; and the under tail-coverts grey, barred grey and whitish or greyish-white instead of white. Females more suffused with grey beneath, the barring being therefore less distinct. Wings of both sexes darker, being much less washed with grey and with the whitish tips and edges much narrower.

Specimens examined: Five males and four females from Dran, Arbre Broye, and Dalat, South Annam, 3000–5400 feet.

With these I associate two birds collected by Mr. K. G. Gairdner in the hill-country of North Siam—a male from north of Raheng and a female from Pakok (wings : ♂ 118 mm.; ♀ 112).

Type. Adult male from Dran, South Annam, 3000 feet, collected on 9th May, 1918, by C. Boden Kloss. Total length 220 mm. ; wing 110.

This is the Annam bird tentatively referred to *Lalage saturata* by Robinson and myself in 'Ibis,' 1919, p. 451. Dr. Hartert, who later examined specimens, says that they are not examples of the Hainan form, which is larger and much blacker on the wings and without white edges. This sounds as though *saturata* (which I have not seen) may be a form of *melaschista*, closely resembling *intermedia* of Hume.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited mounted specimens of nest-feathers and down of the Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*), taken from a nest of eleven eggs, by Mr. William E. Glegg, in the Camargue, on June 13th, 1925, and made the following remarks :—

These self-coloured feathers are characteristic of the genus *Nyroca*, to which at one time the Red-crested Pochard belonged—it has now been given a separate genus, under the name of *Netta*.

If nest-feathers are of any value in classification, I would suggest that there would be some justification for removing the White-eyed Pochard (*N. nyroca*) from this genus, as the nest-feathers are patterned, and *N. rufina* would have been left more at home among the *Nyroca*.

Description.—Feathers (type). Self-coloured, terminal portion pale buff, with paler centrum. *Downy portion* same shade, somewhat paler. *Calamus* whitish at base.

Measurements average 32 mm.

Down mouse-grey, differs in shade from downy portion of feathers, which is unusual, and also in size and colour from those of closely-allied species *N. ferina*, *fuligula*, and *marila*.

I am indebted to Mr. Glegg for the feathers and down, which I believe to be the first authenticated material described. Mr. Glegg has also photographed the nest *in situ* with sitting bird (Brit. Birds, vol. xviii. pp. 90–96).

In confirmation of the above remarks, Mr. Bunyard also exhibited mounted nest-feathers and down of the following : Common Pochard (*N. ferina*), Tufted Duck (*N. fuligula*), Scaup (*N. marila*), and White-eyed Pochard (*N. nyroca*).

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited a series of sixteen eggs of the Cuckoo (*C. canorus*), all from one and the same bird, and all taken from the nests of the Reed-Warbler (*A. streperus*). He made the following remarks :—

I am entirely indebted to my friend Mr. George J. Scholey for this wonderful series, which is not a record for the Reed-Warbler Cuckoo, as Mr. Scholey a few years ago secured nineteen eggs from one bird.

In one respect, however, the series is unique—that is to say, in the wonderful assimilation of this Cuckoo's eggs to the eggs of the foster-parents. In regard to the time of depositing, all the eggs were correctly forecasted by Scholey with the exception of the first two eggs.

The first egg was laid on May 31st, and the last on June 30th. The earliest time of deposition was 4.5 P.M. and the latest 7 P.M. The bird laid her eggs approximately every 48 hours, and the maximum time in depositing 45 seconds, minimum 5 seconds. Dr. Percy Lowe went down to see the fourteenth egg deposited, but was unsuccessful. The fifteenth egg I had the pleasure of seeing deposited from a hide, about 10 feet from the Reed-Warbler's nest. This was on June 28th. On that occasion, about 3.30 P.M., Scholey thought that he saw a bird fly near the nest, which had been marked down, and, on my fixing the field-glasses on the spot, I saw the Cuckoo sitting in the Thorn-tree almost over the nest, but facing away from it.

We then went over and the Cuckoo flew away, over into the next meadow, and was seen by another party.

After a wait of some time we again saw the Cuckoo come back to the same spot, this time facing the Reed-Warbler's nest. I was now quite certain that she intended to use this nest, and finally persuaded Scholey to put up the hide, as the time for laying was fast approaching. We fixed the the hide in position, covering the top with fresh-cut grass. After an inspection of the nest, to make sure that she had not already deposited, Scholey and I entered the hide at 4.45 P.M.

I had some trouble in finding a suitable position from which I could see the Warbler's nest, as Scholey was afraid to disturb the reeds too much in order to expose the nest, as from previous experience he had found that if this was done the Cuckoo would not use it, but would go away and deposit elsewhere.

He is rightly of the opinion that enough reeds must be left intact for the Cuckoo to cling to while at the nest. Hardly had we entered the hide, when we got the prearranged signal from Musselwhite to say the Cuckoo had arrived at 5.40 P.M., and the Reed-Warbler, which was already on the nest, began to show signs of fear and left the nest. Almost instantly, the Cuckoo splashed into the reeds. I saw a shapeless mass of moving feathers, with streaks of brown and grey showing in between the reeds, and she was gone—too quickly, I thought, to have had sufficient time to deposit her egg. This was also Scholey's opinion, and he was as much surprised as I when we found the Cuckoo's egg safely in the nest and one of the Warbler's gone. We estimated the time she was at the nest to have been *not more than five seconds. She was never once still during that time* ; and near as we were to the nest, about 10 feet, it was absolutely impossible to see what really happened—that is to say, whether she layed into the nest normally, or deposited by regurgitation.

My own opinion is, she could not possibly have laid the egg and taken one of the Warbler's in so short a time.

In order not to unduly disturb the Cuckoo, we remained in the hide until we heard her "bubble," which a Cuckoo generally (not always) does after deposition. We afterwards heard from Musselwhite that she went into the tree

above the hide for the purpose of eating the Warbler's egg, which she took after depositing. There were four before she visited the nest. (Mr. Scholey's Wagtail-Cuckoo of last year did not take an egg on two occasions.) She then flew right away, and bubbled as previously mentioned.

On June 30th Dr. George Low came down to see the sixteenth egg deposited.

On this occasion, as on others, there were two Warblers' nests available for the Cuckoo, one containing fresh eggs, the other incubated eggs of about two days.

Mr. Scholey was unable to make up his mind as to which of these nests would be used. Naturally he favoured the nest with fresh eggs, though it is well known that the Cuckoo will use nests with incubated eggs. However, before we had time to come to a final decision, we saw the Cuckoo fly up the ditch, dive into the reeds, and deposit her egg before we had time to realize what had happened, and in spite of the fact that the hay-makers were quite close to the nest. Mr. Scholey went over to the spot, and found the egg had been deposited in the Warbler's nest with the incubated eggs.

I went down to Cliffe-at-Hoo on four occasions, viz. :— on the 24th, 26th, 28th, and 30th June, and only on one occasion (that is to say, on the 28th) did I see the actual deposition take place.

It must also be borne in mind that Mr. Scholey does not "farm" his Warblers, as other observers have "farmed" the fosterers. For instance, no Warblers' nests were destroyed and no fosterers' eggs were taken, as he is anxious to conserve his supply of these birds for further observation.

It would have been easy for Mr. Scholey to have destroyed the Warblers' nests in order to compel the Cuckoo to use the one available nest. The conditions, however, under which these sixteen eggs were obtained were practically normal. I am, however, of the opinion that these long clutches of Cuckoo eggs are not normal, but are the result of a forcing process. For instance, Dr. Rey proved that the Cuckoo undoubtedly takes interest in her eggs after depositing, and

I suggest that in this case, as well as in others, the Cuckoo instinctively realizes that reproduction of the species is not taking place as it should normally, hence the incentive to produce further eggs.

I mention this because another observer has said that these long clutches were the result of the Cuckoo being incited to lay further eggs, as a result of watching the fosterers re-building.

The weights of this series of sixteen Cuckoos' eggs are as follows :—Average 239 mg., max. 254, min. 213.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker described the following new races of Sun-birds :—

Æthopyga siparaja mussooriensis, subsp. nov.

This form of Yellow-backed Sun-bird only differs from *Æ. siparaja seheriæ* in being decidedly larger, with a comparatively longer and broader tail, a longer bill and also in having the scarlet of the throat and breast rather more bright.

Measurements. Wing 60–65 mm. (52–59 in *seheriæ*) ; tail 70–89 (55–74 in *seheriæ*) ; tarsus about 15–17 ; culmen 19–21 (17–19 in *seheriæ*).

Colours of soft parts as in *Æ. s. seheriæ.*

Type in the British Museum. ♂, "Mussoorie." Hume Coll. Reg. No. 86.12.1.480.

Distribution. Garhwal and Kumaon to the Afghan Frontier. Evidently a bird of high elevations, breeding at 8000 ft. upwards.

Considerable series of the typical *seheriæ* and other races have been examined and thirty specimens of this form.

The name *goalpariensis* was given by Royle to a bird from Dehra Doon as being the same as birds he had obtained from Goalpara in Assam. *Æ. siparaja seheriæ* apparently extends throughout the Himalayan Terai as far west as the Doon, but only at comparatively low levels. The Dehra Doon birds all have the wing of 59 mm. or under, the tails are narrow like specimens from Assam, and therefore *goalpariensis* must be considered a synonym of *seheriæ*.

Æthopyga ignicauda exultans, subsp. nov.

Similar to *Æ. ignicauda ignicauda*, but deeper crimson above, whilst below the yellow is deeper and has a greater extent of red on the breast.

Measurements as in the typical form, but with the culmen 19–21 mm., as against 17–19 mm. in that race.

Number of specimens examined. Five adult males of the new form. Female still unknown.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Shueli-Salwin Divide, West Central Yunnan. Forest coll., July 1919. 1921.7.15.626.

Distribution. Yunnan and Shan States.

Obs. I have named this bird *exultans* on account of the manner in which during the breeding-season it mounts into the air with rapidly beating wings and then hovers, all the feathers puffed out, uttering a prolonged trill, its whole appearance being one as of exultation in its own beauty and vigour.

Æthopyga gouldiæ isolata, subsp. nov.

Similar to *Æ. g. gouldiæ*, but with much paler yellow breast, lemon-yellow rather than deep yellow, with no red markings. It is also a rather smaller bird. The female is indistinguishable from that of *Æ. g. gouldiæ*, except by its rather smaller size.

Measurements. Wing 51–53 mm. (53–58 in *gouldiæ*); tail 62–69; tarsus about 14; culmen 13–15.

Colours of soft parts as in the typical form.

Type. ♂, No. 86.12.1.472. Manipur. Hume Coll, British Museum.

Distribution. Manipur, Cachar, and one specimen from Mt. Victoria obtained at 5000 feet, whilst birds with red breasts were obtained from 6000 feet and over.

Obs. This is probably a form of very low elevations, the foot-hills up to 5000 feet, generally under 4000 feet, in a small isolated area spreading from South Assam in the Surma Valley to Manipur, Lushai, and the Lower Chin Hills.

Number of specimens examined. Six adult males of the new form, big series of the typical.

Arachnothera chrysogenys intensiflava, subsp. nov.

This form differs from *A. c. chrysogenys* in being decidedly brighter yellowish-green above and brighter, less suffused with ashy, on the breast and flanks.

Measurements. Wing 77–88 mm. ; tail 37–43 ; tarsus 17–18 ; culmen 34–38.

Type. ♂, No. 86.12.1.1203, J. Darling, Kossoom, Tenasserim. 30.8.79. British Museum Collection.

Distribution. Tenasserim, from Mergui to Malacca and Singapore Island.

Twenty specimens of this race examined and a large series of the typical *A. c. chrysogenys* Temm., of Java.

Mr. W. L. Sclater forwarded the following notes on African Birds :—

Note on *Campethera nubica.*

In the first part of the Syst. Av. Ethiop. p. 295, the species named *Campethera nubica albifacies* (Gunning & Roberts) should be *C. n. scriptoricauda* (Reichw.), as Reichenow's name is the oldest and the names are undoubtedly synonyms.

My attention was drawn to this by Mr. C. F. Belcher, who brought home with him from Nyasaland a pair of these birds obtained near Chiromo by Mr. L. H. Walker. He suggested that they might be identical with Reichenow's species, which was accidentally overlooked in my list. On submitting the skins to Dr. Stresemann he confirmed Mr. Belcher's suggestion, and further stated that he considered *albifacies* Gunning & Roberts and *aureicuspis* Reichw. to be synonyms of *scriptoricauda.*

On p. 295 of the Syst. Av. Ethiop. therefore for *Campethera nubica albifacies* should be substituted

Campethera nubica scriptoricauda (Reichw.).

Dendromus scriptoricauda Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. iv. p. 131, 1896 : Bumi, Tanganyika Territory, with which

Dendromus albifacies Gunning & Roberts, Ann. Transvaal Mus. iii. p. 112, 1911 : Villa Pereira, Borer, and *Dendromus aureicuspis* Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. p. 26, 1915 : Usagara are synonyms.

A new Weaver.

Ploceus [Othyphantes] baglafecht alexanderi, subsp. nov.

Closely resembling *P. b. baglafecht* and *P. b. neumanni*, recently described by Mr. Bannerman from the Cameroon–Nigerian boundary, but considerably smaller than either, wing 77 mm. in the only example available; crown pale yellow without any indication of orange wash, back slightly greyer in tone, and underparts of a slightly less bright yellow ; as in *P. b. neumanni* the hinder half of the underparts is a dull white.

Measurements. Length [in skin] 150 mm. ; wing 77 ; tail 56 ; tarsus 25 ; culmen 16.

Type and only example in the British Museum obtained at Gudima, Iri or Ira River, near Vankerchovenville, in the north-east corner of the Belgian Congo, on ♂ Sept. 1906, by Captain Boyd Alexander. Reg. No. 1911.12.23.3682.

The finding of this Weaver partially closes the gap between the typical race, confined to the Abyssinian plateau, and *P. b. neumanni* already mentioned. Alexander mentions in his 'From the Niger to the Nile,' vol. ii. pp. 332–333, that, when at Gudima, he climbed a neighbouring hill to a height of about 4000 ft., whence he could see to the eastwards the hills of the Nile, so that like the other members of the group this form is also a bird of the higher altitudes.

The São Thomé Weaver.

This curious-looking Weaver is no doubt a member of the genus *Ploceus* in its widest sense, but it is very distinct from any other member of the genus. It was placed in *Sycobius* by Hartlaub, its original describer, and subsequently in *Anaplectes*, *Heterhyphantes*, and *Sharpia* (now *Notiospiza*) by Reichenbach, Sharpe, Reichenow, and Shelley. It cannot be

claimed that it is related to any of these. The bill is long and slender, somewhat like that of *Ploceus* (*Icteropsis*) *pelzelni* ; it has curious whitish tips to the coverts, forming a double bar, which remind one of *Sharpia* (*Notiospiza*), but in other respects it is quite unlike that rare Angolan species, and I see no other course, in spite of Dr. Hartert's remarks (Nov. Zool. xiv. 1907, p. 494), except to propose for it a new subgeneric name,

Thomasophantes, subgen. nov.,

with type *Sycobius sancti-thomæ* Hartl.

The African Weavers of the Genus *Ploceus*.

Since the appearance of Reichenow's (1904) and Shelley's (1905) account of the African Weavers, the only contributions to the difficult question of the subdivision of the very large genus *Ploceus* is that of Chapin (Bull. Amer. Mus. N. H. xxxviii. 1917, pp. 243–280) and Roberts (Ann. Transv. Mus. viii. 1922, pp. 268–271), but neither of these authors appears to have had sufficient material at their disposal to arrive at final conclusions.

I am not at all satisfied with my own results, but venture to give below a list of such subgenera as appear to me to be useful for the more convenient division of the comprehensive genus *Ploceus*. For those who prefer to do so, these can be treated as distinct genera. With the genera are given a list of species (but not subspecies) in each.

Symplectes Swains., 1837.

Type. *Ploceus bicolor* Vieill.
Synonym. *Sycobrotus* Cab., 1851.
Species. *bicolor* Vieill.

Phormoplectes Reichw., 1903.

Type. *Sycobrotus insignis* Sharpe.
Species. *insignis* Sharpe ; *dorsomaculatus* Reichw.

Othyphantes Shelley, 1896.

Type. *Sycobrotus reichenowi* Fisch.

Species. *reichenowi* Fisch.; *batesi* Sharpe; *anochlorus* Reichw.; *bertrandi* Shelley; *nigrimentum* Reichw.; *stuhlmanni* Reichw.; *baglafecht* Vieill.; *emini* Hartl.

Heterhyphantes Sharpe, 1890.

Type. *Ploceus melanogaster* Shelley.

Species. *melanogaster* Shelley.

Melanopteryx Reichw., 1886.

Type. *Ploceus nigerrimus* Vieill.

Species. *nigerrimus* Vieill.; *maxwelli* Alexander; *albinucha* Boc.

Cinnamopteryx Reichw., 1886.

Type. *Ploceus castaneofuscus* Less.

Species. *castaneofuscus* Less.; *tricolor* Hartl.; *aureonucha* Sassi.

Sitagra Reichenb., 1850.

Type. *Fringilla luteola* Licht.

Synonyms. *Plesiositagra* Iredale & Bannerman, 1921: type *Hyphantornis spekei*. *Hyphantornis* apud Reichw. et auctorum. *Microplectes* Roberts, 1922: type, *Ploceus velatus* Vieill.

Species. *luteolus* Licht.; *melanocephalus* Linn.; *duboisi* Hartl.; *capitalis* Lath.; *jacksoni* Shelley; *weynsi* Dubois; *golandi* Clarke; *velatus* Vieill.; *heuglini* Reichw.; *spekei* Heugl.; *intermedius* Rüpp.; *tæniopterus* Reichb.; *vitellinus* Licht.; *spilonotus* Vig.; *nigriceps* Layard; *collaris* Vieill.; *cucullatus* Müll.; *badius* Cass.; *rubiginosus* Rüpp.

Icteropsis Pelz., 1881.

Type. *Sitagra pelzelni* Hartl.

Species. *pelzelni* Hartl.; *subpersonata* Cab.

PACHYPHANTES Shelley, 1896.

Type. *Hyphantornis superciliosus* Shelley.
Species. *superciliosus* Shelley.

THOMASOPHANTES W. Scl. [see p. 16].

Type. *Sycobius sancti-thomæ* Hartl.
Species. *sancti-thomæ* Hartl.

HYPHANTORNIS Gray, 1849.

Type. *Hyphantornis grandis* Gray.
Synonym. *Hypermegethes* Reichw., 1903 : type, *H. grandis* Gray.
Species. *grandis* Gray.

HYPHANTURGUS Cab., 1851.

Type. *Ploceus brachypterus* Swains.
Synonym. *Melanhyphantes* Sharpe, Jamieson's 'Story of the Rear Column,' p. 404, 1890 : type, *Malimbus nigricollis*.
Species. *brachypterus* Swains. ; *ocularius* Smith ; *nigricollis* Vieill. ; *alienus* Sharpe.

EUPLOCEUS Roberts, 1922.

Type. *Oriolus capensis* Linn.
Species. *capensis* Linn.

XANTHOPHILUS Reichenb., 1863.

Type. *Ploceus aureoflavus* Smith.
Synonym. *Oriolinus* Reichenb., 1863 : type, *Ploceus subaureus*. *Xanthoplectes* Roberts, 1922 : type, *Hyphantornis xanthopterus* Finsch & Hartl.
Species. *aureoflavus* Smith ; *subaureus* Smith ; *temporalis* Boc. ; *xanthops* Hartl. ; *princeps* Bp. ; *dichrocephalus* Salv. ; *xanthopterus* Finsch & Hartl. ; *castanops* Shelley ; *olivaceiceps* Reichw. ; *aurantius* Vieill. ; *galbula* Rüpp. ; *flavissimus* Neum.

The Genus *Quelea*.

Dr. Reichenow (Vög. Afr. iii. p. 108) has used the name *Loxia sanguinirostris* Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. p. 173, instead of *Emberiza quelea*, p. 177, for the Black-faced Dioch, commonly known as *Quelea quelea*, claiming page-priority for the former name. Linnæus's original description of *L. sanguinirostris*, "A grey bird, below white, feet and bill red," is hardly diagnostic and the only reference is to "Chin. Lagerstr." A reference to "Chinensia Lagerstromiana," an Academical Dissertation by J. L. Odhelius, p. 15, shows that the bird there described is undoubtedly the American Cardinal. It will therefore be obvious that *Emberiza quelea* must be retained as the correct specific name.

With regard to the type-locality of *Emberiza quelea*, Linnæus in the tenth edition gives India, but in the twelfth substitutes Africa and quotes Brisson, *Passer senegalensis erythrorhynchos* as a synonym. We may therefore adopt Senegal as the type-locality of Linnæus's species. The South African race will then stand as *Quelea quelea lathami* Smith.

The following forms may be recognized :—

Quelea quelea quelea.

Emberiza quelea Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 10th ed. p. 177, 1758 : "India"; Senegal ex Brisson, see Linnæus, 12th ed. p. 310.

Distribution. Senegal, the interior of Gold Coast Colony, Nigeria, and the adjoining parts of Cameroon and the Shari region.

Quelea quelea centralis.

Quelea sanguinirostris centralis v. Someren, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. xli. p. 122, 1921 : Lake Albert Edward.

Distribution. Uganda and the slopes of Ruwenzori.

Quelea quelea lathami.

Loxia lathami A. Smith, Rep. Exped. C. Afr. p. 51, 1836 : nr. Kurrichane.

Distribution. South Africa from Angola and Damaraland to Bechuanaland, the Transvaal, Orange Free State Prov.,

Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and Portuguese East Africa, but not south of the Orange River.

QUELEA QUELEA ÆTHIOPICA.

Ploceus æthiopicus Sundevall, Oefv. K. Vet.-Akad. Förhandl. for 1850, p. 126 : Sennar.

Distribution. The Nile Valley from Khartoum to Lado, east to Sennar, Abyssinia and Somaliland, south to the eastern half of Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory.

I cannot distinguish *Quelea æthiopica intermedia* Reichw. from the foregoing.

The other two species, *Q. erythrops* (Hartl.) and *Q. cardinalis* (Hartl.), are quite distinct and are well known.

Mr. GREGORY M. MATHEWS made the following remarks:—

As bearer, with Dr. Hartert, of a congratulatory address from this Union to the German Ornithologists' Union on their seventy-fifth anniversary, I should like to say how interesting that gathering was.

The President of the German Ornithologists' Union, Dr. LUCANUS, asked me to tell you how much his Society appreciated the sentiments expressed in the address, and to say that all hoped that the good feeling which has always existed between the two Unions will continue.

I met with nothing but kindness and hospitality, and was able to renew friendships formed years ago, and I left Berlin with a feeling that I was carrying their goodwill to our Union.

Amongst these present were King Ferdinand, late of Bulgaria ; Dr. Lönnberg of Sweden ; Drs. de Beaufort and Van Oort of Holland ; Dr. Sassi of Austria, and, of course, many German members.

The lectures and meetings were most interesting and instructive, many of them being illustrated. Perhaps the most important was the Cinematograph on Tuesday, where much of value was shown. The pictures of Humming-Birds

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11/10/24.

robertsi

~~ruficauda~~

Bull. B.O. Club
XLVII p. 21

Dear Hartert

I have two
little Waxbills from Senegal
~~which~~ recently described
cinereo (= troglodytes) but
have very little to differ
distinct from Ugogo.

We have no examples of E
cinereo from Senegal but
think that from elsewhere

I have you any of this sp.
from Senegal if so would
you be so kind as to send
it as we have for no better
orchids big it a Vanda.
I should also be glad to
have the types of your
Habenaria Barbata &
Psychotrias if I might
Yours sincerely
W Scully

feeding their young were, so far as I know, filmed for the first time.

As we are to hold an International Congress at Copenhagen next year, I should like to see at least one member of the German Ornithologists' Union again on our list of Foreign Members.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews described the following new bird :—

A new Form of Barnardius.

While inspecting the aviaries of the Marquis of Tavistock, I was struck by the appearance of a *Barnardius* somewhat like *Barnardius barnardii* Vigors & Horsfield, but noticeably without the yellow band on the lower breast—which, in my opinion, is a new species.

It is as large as *barnardii* and richly coloured, with an abundance of blue, the cheeks being only less blue than in *whitei*; entire breast blue-green ; the yellow collar only faintly indicated by a small yellow patch on each side of the neck ; crown of the head pale green ; a dark **V**-shaped mark of dull blue-green at the back of the head ; red frontal band well developed. The bird is an adult female.

Locality. Australia (?).

I propose to call it

Barnardius crommelinæ, sp. nov.,

in honour of Lady Tavistock.

I have dealt with the genus *Barnardius* in my 'Birds of Australia,' vol. vi. p. 356, 1917.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews also sent the following change in names :—

Alcedo laubmanni, new name for *Alcedo asiatica* Swainson, Zool. Illustr. pl. 50, 1821. Not Meuschen, 1787.

Estrilda robertsi, new name for *Fringilla cinerea* Vieillot, 1817. Not Meuschen, 1787.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst communicated the following descriptions of hitherto unrecognized races of Himalayan birds :—

Ægithaliscus concinna rubricapillus, subsp. nov.

Like *Ægithaliscus concinna iredalei*, but smaller, wing 46–52 mm.; in fresh plumage bluer (not so blue-grey) on the back, and, on an average, head and flanks darker chestnut.

Type in the British Museum. Sikkim, November. Seebohm Coll. Reg. No. 98.9.20 364.

Distribution. Sikkim, east to Mishmi Hills.

Obs. Twenty birds from Sikkim measure, wing 46–52 mm., very few over 51. Twenty birds from N.W. Himalayas measure, wing 50–57 mm. The differences in measurement are small, but for a Long-tailed Tit relatively large, and, with colour-differences, most specimens are easily separable.

Dendrocitta formosæ occidentalis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Dendrocitta formosæ himalayensis* only by its superior size. Wing 145–160 mm. ; tail about 20–30 mm. longer. *Male.* Tail 249–257 mm.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Simla, Dec. 12, 1880 : Hume Coll. Reg. No. 86.3.1.702.

Distribution. N.W. Himalayas.

Obs. D. f. occidentalis, 18 ♂♂, wing 145–160 mm. ; 8 ♀♀, wing 150–157 ; 16 unsexed, wing 147–157. *D. f. himalayensis*, wing 136–146 mm. (twice 146) ; 29 *ex* Sikkim examined, mostly 138–143 ; tail 208–222.

Blyth described *D. himalayensis* from "the Himalayas." No hint is given whence his type came, but in his 'Catalogue' he mentions specimens from Darjeeling, and therefore I restrict the type-locality of *D. himalayensis* to Sikkim.

Seicercus burkii whistleri, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Seicercus burkii burkii* in having the upper parts brighter green, less olive, and the underparts paler yellow, less washed with olive on the flanks.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Dharmsala, Punjab Himalayas, March 26, 1922 : *ex* H. Whistler Coll. No. 4194.

Distribution. N.W. Himalayas.

Obs. Sylvia burkii was described by Burton from the Himalayas. There is no indication whence the type came, and I now restrict the type-locality to Sikkim. Twelve specimens from N.W. Himalayas examined, and a long series from Sikkim.

Mr. J. D. La Touche forwarded the following :—

The form of *Emberiza fucata* Pallas, which inhabits the mountains of North-West Fohkien, in South-East China, appears to me to differ in several particulars from the birds taken on the China Coast, whether as migrants from South-East China to North-East Chihli or as winter-visitors to the Lower Yangtse and the coastal districts of South-East China. The latter is a large bird (wing, ♂ 73–77 mm.) with pale upper parts, but the bird found breeding at Kuatun on the mountains of the North-West of Fohkien is small and dark. I would propose to name this resident form

Emberiza fucata kuatunensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *E. f. fucata* in being much darker and redder on the upper parts, the tints of these parts resembling those of *E. f. arcuata* Sharpe. The flanks and underparts generally are much as in *E. f. fucata*. The female is also darker. Wing, ♂ 69·5–71·5 mm., ♀ 68–71 mm.

Types. ♂, Kuatun, N.W. Fohkien, April 23, 1898; ♀, Kuatun, N.W. Fohkien, May 13, 1897.

The form of *Emberiza fucata*, which is resident on the Lower Yangtse, is also a very dark bird, breeding examples being easily distinguished from the large migrants of the coast. I propose to name this form

Emberiza fucata fluviatilis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *E. f. fucata* in being much darker on the upper parts, resembling in this respect both the Yunnan and the Fohkien resident birds. Wing, ♂ 73–75 mm.

Type. ♂, Chinkiang, May 11, 1902.

The various forms of the Grey-headed Bunting found in China are distributed there as follows :—

EMBERIZA FUCATA FUCATA Pall.

North-East China, Shaweishan (migrant). Lower and Middle Yangtse, South-East China, Hainan (winter).

EMBERIZA FUCATA FLUVIATILIS La Touche.

Lower Yangtse Valley (resident).

EMBERIZA FUCATA KUATUNENSIS La Touche.

North-West Fohkien (summer ; also most probably in winter in the valleys). East Fohkien, North-East Kwangtung (winter).

EMBERIZA FUCATA ARCUATA Sharpe.

East Yunnan (resident). Probably also N.W. Yunnan.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, 11th November, 1925, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. WITHERBY, *Chairman.* N. B. KINNEAR, *Editor.* GEORGE C. LOW, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY
9 NOV 1925 PURCHASED

Bird Room

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCC.

The two-hundred-and-ninety-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, November 11th, 1925.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—E. C. Stuart Baker; D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; Miss M. G. S. Best; P. F. Bunyard; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; R. H. Deane; A. Ezra; M. U. Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; E. Hartert; L. M. Jopling; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. P. R. Lowe; N. S. Lucas; Rear-Admiral H. Lynes; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Col. H. A. F. Magrath; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; G. M. Mathews; T. H. Newman; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; Major A. G. L. Sladen; D. Seth-Smith; H. Stevens; H. Kirke Swann; Mrs. R. Haig Thomas; W. H. Thorpe; B. W. Tucker.

Guests:—R. Weeden Butler; A. R. Maudslay; T. R. Morgan; Dr. Percy Rendall; W. E. Wait.

Mr. H. F. Witherby said :—

"Before reading my Annual Address I must refer with very deep regret to the death of our fellow-member, Mr. Michael J. Nicoll. This occurred on 31st October, and although we knew that Mr. Nicoll had been in bad health for some time yet his death came as a shock, as he had written to me only a few weeks ago saying he hoped soon to be able to attend our meetings. Mr. Nicoll was only 45, and we had hoped to see him do much ornithological work in the years to come. He was at the time of his death working on an enlarged edition of the 'Hand-List of the Birds of Egypt' which he published in 1919, and it is to be hoped that this was so far ready that it can be completed. In his earlier days Mr. Nicoll was an exceptionally fine field-man, though he was handicapped in this in recent years by a weak heart. His work as Naturalist during three very interesting oceanic voyages in Lord Crawfurd's yacht, the 'Valhalla,' will be known to you all, and we can but greatly deplore the loss of so good an ornithologist."

The Chairman then read his Annual Address :—

Members of the B. O. C.,—

Though the year which has passed since my last Address has not perhaps been marked by any really outstanding ornithological event, good steady progress has been made in various directions.

Before dealing with the work done, I must refer with deep regret to the loss by death of the following members:— T. H. Briggs (June 23, 1924), J. Davidson (June 25, 1925), Francis Nicholson (Feb. 10, 1925). I learn that Mr. Davidson bequeathed his collection of Indian birds and eggs to the British Museum.

A good many of our members have been active in the field abroad. Mr. C. Boden Kloss visited the Mentawi Islands, off the west coast of Sumatra, towards the end of 1924, and made zoological collections. The island of Siberut had not before been explored, and the ornithological results of

this expedition are certain to be interesting. An expedition to Tunisia has been made by Messrs. Willoughby P. Lowe and D. Bannerman, on behalf of the British Museum, with the generous assistance of Mr. A. S. Vernay. The collection of birds, which should throw light on the distribution of various forms, has not yet been worked out owing to the fact that Mr. Bannerman unfortunately contracted a very serious illness while in Tunisia. The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain also made an expedition to Tunisia and, like Mr. Bannerman, also fell ill. We are glad to know that both these members are now practically recovered, and hope soon to hear something of the results of their journeys. Rear-Admiral H. Lynes journeyed with Mr. G. Bolam to Abyssinia, but, on reaching Addis Abbaba, Admiral Lynes was attacked by fever, and owing to this and a delay in the arrival of ammunition it became too late in the season to accomplish the journey planned, so a return to England was made. Admiral Lynes thereupon started on an expedition to Central Marocco, in which he received, as in previous years, much assistance from the French authorities, and is publishing his results in the 'Archives Scientifiques du Protectorat Français.' Dr. E. Hartert also paid a visit to Marocco, where after some collecting near Rabat he proceeded to the foot-hills of the Great Atlas south of Marrakesh and afterwards to the Middle Atlas. Mr. W. E. Glegg resumed his work in the Carmargue; while Messrs. H. K. Swann and J. H. McNeile made a trip in Dobrogea, and an interesting account of their results has already appeared. Mr. McNeile subsequently revisited Norwegian Lapland, and Mr. Hachisuka and Mr. L. J. Turtle explored North Iceland. Major W. M. Congreve, accompanied by Commander A. T. Wilson, visited his old hunting-grounds in the south of Spain, and among other things procured a breeding specimen of the Goshawk, which I had the pleasure of exhibiting at our last meeting. My wife and I, with the Spanish ornithologist Señor Gil Lletget, did some bird-work in Central Spain, some of the results of which I have already referred to. Colonel R.

Meinertzhagen has been travelling and collecting for nearly a year in Kashmir, where he has climbed to high altitudes and has pushed as far as the Pangong Lake in Eastern Ladakh. He has now been joined in India by Mrs. Meinertzhagen, and they intend to visit Sikkim and study the birds there. The S.Y. 'St. George' has arrived home after her long voyage, and we may hope soon to hear something of the ornithological work done, which has been under the care of Lt.-Col. H. J. Kelsall. Mons. M. J. Delacour and Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe have recently started on an expedition to Annam, where Mons. Delacour did good work two years ago. Major R. E. Cheesman has taken up a post as Consul near Lake Tsana, and we may be sure that he will not neglect the study of birds in this little-known part of Abyssinia.

Mons. Heim de Balsac has been continuing his ornithological researches in Algeria, and has this year visited the Massif de l'Ouarsenis, where he found interesting birds, including the Alpine Accentor. Professor Oscar Neumann accompanied a German expedition for obtaining live animals and birds in Abyssinia.

From America we hear of a number of expeditions in the interests of natural science, with birds as one of the objects, to various parts of the world including South America, the south Atlantic, Pacific, Borneo, Africa, and Central Asia.

Of the ornithological publications mentioned in my last address and not yet complete, Mr. G. M. Mathews is now nearing the end of his great task, the 'Birds of Australia' being in the last volume. I may mention that the Supplement on the "Bibliography," published during the year, contains much of interest outside the Austral-Asian region. The third volume of Mr. J. C. Phillips's fine work on the "Ducks" has just appeared. As publication of Dr. and Mrs. Heinroth's 'Die Vögel Mitteleuropas' progresses, the importance of the work and the value of the illustrations of birds in different stages of growth will be the more appreciated.

Amongst new works being issued in instalments I may

mention that Mr. H. K. Swann, who has for a long time made a special study of the Birds of Prey, has made a good start with his ambitious 'Monograph' of these birds. Dr. W. E. Collinge has published, in a revised edition, five parts of his valuable work on 'The Food of some British Wild Birds' which deserves our close attention; Dr. E. Lehn Schiöler has completed the first large volume of what promises to be a magnificent publication devoted to the birds of Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, and the Faeroes; Dr. C. E. Hellmayr, having undertaken the revision and continuation of the late C. B. Cory's important 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas' in the Field Museum, has completed and issued Part III.; Mr. A. C. Bent has added to his valuable series of publications on the Life Histories of North American birds with a second volume on Wild Fowl (Anseres); Mr. J. D. D. La Touche has issued Part I. of a very useful 'Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China'; Mr. A. Thorburn has published two volumes of an octavo edition of his 'British Birds,' with a completely new series of his inimitable pictures.

Beyond the works already mentioned some single volumes of ornithological importance have been published during the year. Miss E. L. Turner, in 'Broadland Birds,' has given us an attractive account of many valuable observations on the life-history of the birds she studied; 'A Manual of the Birds of Ceylon,' by Mr. E. Wait, is a very useful and much wanted work, which, I may remark, has unfortunately been printed on most unsuitable paper; in his 'Bird Islands of Peru,' Dr. R. A. C. Murphy has combined ornithology with much information on the commercial importance of certain birds, such as the Peruvian Cormorant; Dr. N. Kuroda has published a fine work on the 'Avifauna of the Riu Kiu Islands'; and Mr. M. U. Hachisuka has compiled a 'Comparative Hand-list of the Birds of Japan and the British Isles.'

A large number of important and valuable papers on various aspects of ornithology have appeared during the year in numerous journals and scientific proceedings, but these I cannot mention individually.

Before closing this review of the year's work, I must mention the successful meeting held in Berlin to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the German Ornithologists' Union.

Finally, I have to acknowledge, as on a previous occasion, the kind assistance of several friends in making this brief record as complete as possible.

Lord Rothschild described a new form of Cassowary as follows :—

Casuarius casuarius lateralis, subsp. nov.

♂ *adult.* This local race of *C. casuarius* is nearest to *C. c. altijugus*, but is distinguished from all the other races by the entirely blue lower sides of the neck. Very large, quite equalling *C. c. sclateri* in height and bulk ; casque tall, inclined to curl over and be wrinkled ; greenish-horn colour. Head and throat bright blue, fore-neck and upper sides of neck purplish-blue, lower sides of neck bright blue, edged with paler sky-blue, the hinder third blue like the rest, NOT RED as in the other races of *C. casuarius.* Hind-neck bright blue ; the reddish-orange patch at base of neck much reduced in size. On the base of fore-neck the two wattles are large and dark mauve-pink. The pink colouring of the wattles only runs up the large neck-muscles half the length of the throat, whereas in *C. c. altijugus* and *C. c. sclateri* it runs up right to the gape.

Hab. North coast to North-East New Guinea (type received alive).

The Tring Museum has in addition to the type a much less adult ♀, two eggs, and two one-third grown young from Gaza River, N.E. New Guinea.

Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited a series of Tawny and Steppe Eagles, and made the following remarks :—

At the meeting of the B. O. C. held on the 10th June, 1925, Mr. Kirke Swann exhibited an Eagle from the

Dobrogea which he said was an *Aquila rapax*, and the adult of the bird described as *Aquila culleni* Bree, B. Europe, 2nd ed. i. p. 89 (1875). Mr. Swann evidently had no thought of anything else than *Aquila rapax* when he received the specimen, and, in the Bull. B. O. C. xlv. p. 111, only compared it with *Aquila rapax belisarius* from North Africa, from which it differs, of course, considerably, as it is not an *Aquila rapax* at all, but a typical adult Steppe-Eagle, *Aquila nipalensis orientalis*, which inhabits the South Russian Steppes, and is known to occur, and apparently also to nest in small numbers, possibly even regularly, in the Dobrogea.

Mr. Swann does not believe that I am right in saying that his supposed *A. rapax culleni* is an *A. n. orientalis*, and tells me that he has discovered that the shape of the nostrils in *A. rapax* and *nipalensis* is different, and that also the feet and claws differ. It is quite true that the nostrils are as a rule straighter in *A. rapax*, while they are somewhat oblique in *Aquila nipalensis*, but it is impossible to name every specimen from this character. Mr. Swann also called my attention to the presence of a knob or ridge in the front of the nostril in *A. rapax*. This is usually a very good character by which to distinguish *A. rapax* and *nipalensis*, but a knob or ridge (which does not form part of the skeleton) is, exceptionally, discernible in *A. nipalensis* (as shown in a specimen of *A. n. orientalis* from Sarepta in South Russia), and is not invariably well developed in *A. rapax*, as seen in a young *rapax* exhibited. (Mr. Swann thinks that in the latter specimen this is due to youth, but other young birds show the knob as well as adults.) However that may be, if we compare Mr. Swann's Dobrogea specimen, we will see that the nostril is exactly as in most *A. nipalensis*. In the nostril there is not the usual "knob" of *rapax*, but only a sharp, very narrow ridge; this latter might have been caused by a string, which was put through the nostril; indeed, the lower edge looks as if such had been the case, since it appears different from that in other Steppe and *rapax* Eagles, as will be evident from the specimens exhibited. Anyhow, it is clear that the Dobrogea specimen agrees absolutely in

every detail of plumage and dimensions with adult males of *A. n. orientalis*. The wings, feet, and claws are, of course, larger in females than in males in both *A. nipalensis* and *rapax*, but the wings, feet, and claws of the Dobrogea bird agree in these respects with other adult males of *A. n. orientalis*, while males of *A. rapax* have, of course, shorter wings.

Our series at Tring gives the following measurements :—

A. nipalensis orientalis : ♂ 517–560, ♀ 575–605 mm.
A. rapax raptor : ♂ 480–520, ♀ 520–555 mm., exceptionally 560.
A. rapax belisarius : ♂ 520–530, ♀ 550–575 mm.

Mr. Swann's ♂ from the Dobrogea has a wing of 535 mm., as measured by me, which is just the average of the ♂ *A. n. orientalis*. In *all* other dimensions it agrees very well with males of *A. n. orientalis*, with which, as I said above, it was not compared by Swann in Bull. B. O. Club, xlv. p. 111; certainly the fact that it differs from specimens of *A. rapax belisarius* does not make it a *rapax*. The startling theory that a local subspecies of *A. rapax* inhabits the Dobrogea is therefore an absolute fallacy. It was based merely on the one ♂ in Mr. Swann's collection, which he mistook for an *A. rapax* (and the type of *A. culleni* of Bree, which neither of us has seen). Now, what about that type? It was a young bird (which grew up in captivity) in the light rufescent plumage, sometimes, but not always, found in juvenile *A. rapax*. It was believed by the ornithologists who saw it alive in the Antwerp Gardens, about fifty years ago, to be an *Aquila rapax* because of its colour. I am exhibiting a juvenile *A. n. orientalis* which has the same colour partially, the dark feathers, some only sprouting, are evidently those of the adult plumage. It would thus seem that this bird in its first plumage was very similar to the young bird described as *A. culleni*. Such variations of the young bird are not astonishing if we remember the variations in juvenile plumage of *A. rapax raptor* (*albicans* auct.), the wonderful juvenile *A. clanga* known as "*fulvescens*," and the variability of *A. rapax vindhiana*. It is, therefore, Lord Rothschild's and my opinion

that the bird described as *A. culleni* was a juvenile *A. n. orientalis*—in fact, there is nothing at all to show that it was a *rapax*, especially as it afterwards moulted into a bird of the plumage of an adult *A. n. orientalis*, as shown by the figure in Dresser's B. Europe. It must be added that Dombrowski, who lived many years in Roumania and had most of Rettig's material from the Dobrogea, never got an *A. rapax*. In the body of his book he mentions nothing of such a bird, but in the Appendix he described three specimens as supposed *A. culleni*, which from his description were all *orientalis*. On the other hand, it is known that *A. n. orientalis* occurs regularly, though not commonly, in the Dobrogea, and apparently nests as already mentioned.

Dr. Hartert added :—

While on the subject of Eagles I would add a few further remarks.

There is still insufficient evidence of the differences between *A. r. belisarius* of Marocco and Algeria and of *A. r. raptor*, but the former seems to be a larger form. It appears, however, to get dark when adult, though a bird taken from the nest in 1898 by the late Carlo von Erlanger's party moults year after year into a plumage not essentially different from the first plumage and still lives at Ingelheim on the Rhine, where I saw it last month. The strange striped form of young as exhibited in *raptor*, etc., is, however, not yet known in *belisarius*. Also the differences of *A. rapax rapax* and *raptor* are not very constant, as sometimes *raptor* when young is like *rapax*! It need hardly be repeated that the so-called *A. rapax* from Astrachan in the Dresden Museum is *A. clanga*.

A. rapax vindhiana has two juvenile plumages like *raptor*, and the bird described by Sushkin as *A. murina* (Bull. B. O. Club, xi. p. 8, 1900) is only a phase of *vindhiana*, as is obvious from the series now in the British Museum. If, however, this supposed *murina* could be separated, it would have to be called *punctata*, as it agrees well with the figure

by Hardwicke, in Gray & Hardwicke's Ill. Indian Zoology, on plate 16, on which the name *punctata* is based. I am glad that, apparently, Messrs. Swann and Baker agree with me that *murina* is not a species or subspecies, as neither of these authors mentions it in his list. The adult *rapax* is unstriped—not striped, as Sushkin said in 1900.

There is now no doubt that *Aquila fulvescens* is a juvenile phase of *A. clanga*, and not a different species as was still believed by Blanford in 1895 and myself in 1899, and by Sushkin 1900.

The breeding-ranges of the various Eagles in India are perhaps not sufficiently known, and, as far as I know, there is no evidence of the nesting of *A. nipalensis* in that country. As the forms of *A. rapax* do not breed in the same areas as those of *A. nipalensis*, I think it possible that *A. rapax* and *A. nipalensis* may be regarded as subspecies, differing *usually* in the nostrils and juvenile plumages and in dimensions. Some adults are sometimes difficult to distinguish.

Mr. H. Kirke Swann replied as follows :—

Although there is no ornithologist whose opinion I value more highly than that of Dr. Hartert, I must entirely dissent from his conclusions in regard to the Rumanian Tawny Eagle. *Aquila nipalensis orientalis* and *Aquila rapax* are totally distinct species, and if there is anything we can rely on for specific characters surely it must be structural differences and not superficial resemblance in plumage.

The specific distinctions between *A. n. orientalis* and *A. rapax* are firstly structural, and, secondly, the difference between the immature plumages of the two birds. Old dark birds of the two species are practically alike in plumage, even to the shape and number of the indistinct bars on the tail.

For the purposes of a final examination, after going over the British Museum and Tring series, I selected at the former institution four East African examples of *Aquila rapax raptor* in the oldest and darkest plumage, and four examples (one South Russian and three African migrants) of *Aquila nipalensis orientalis* also in similar plumage. The

plumage of all these eight birds is practically identical, except that the four Tawny Eagles show a chocolate shade, which is not apparent in the Steppe Eagles. Three of the Steppe Eagles show more or less a fulvous nape-patch, which is slightly indicated in only one of the Tawny Eagles. The only reliable distinction to my mind is, therefore, structural, and if Dr. Hartert can prove that these structural differences do not exist, then we have two species which have no specific distinctions in the *adult* plumage. That they are species is, however, perfectly obvious, and Dr. Hartert has himself treated them as such.

Mr. Swann then exhibited some sketches which had been made of the nostrils of four Tawny Eagles to prove that they resembled the vertical nostril depicted in Keulemans's plate of *culleni* rather than the oval nostril of *nipalensis* ; also two plates of the Steppe and Tawny Eagle from Gray and Hardwicke's Indian Zoology, which show that the difference in the nostrils was apparent to the artist.

A plate of *A. n. orientalis* was also shown by Mr. Swann for the sake of comparing the nostril shown in that picture with the one in the same artist's representation of *A. r. culleni*.

The accompanying table shows the relative measurements of the selected examples of each species :—

	Aquila nipalensis orientalis.	*Aquila rapax raptor.*	*Aquila rapax culleni.*
	4 ♂♂.	4 ♂♂.	1 ♂.
Wing	530–545 mm.	500–516 mm.	525 mm.*
Tail	260–270	245–265	255
Length of culmen	35–40	35–40	36
Height „ „	20–21	19–20	19
Tarsus.....	89–92	95–97	97
Middle toe	49–52	54–61	58
Outer toe	36–38	40–47	44
Inner toe	28–30	30–33	32
Hind toe	27–28	30–33	31

* Dr. Hartert measures the wing externally, while I measure it underneath; consequently his measurements are 10–15 mm. greater than mine.

Dr. Hartert has attempted to discredit the type-specimen of *A. r. culleni*, the only evidence of which is the plates and descriptions. Those in the works of Bree and Dresser, published at intervals of five years, show the bird first in juvenile and then in adult plumage. The Bree plate is admittedly bad, yet it shows a juvenile of the Tawny Eagle in albescent plumage, and no other species. Dresser's plate was drawn by Keulemans at Antwerp and depicts an undoubted adult of *A. rapax* in the same plumage as my Rumanian bird, with the same vertical nostrils and long toes. Gurney, a great authority, also saw and described it ('Ibis,' 1877, p. 228).

Dr. Hartert then made the following reply in answer to Mr. Kirke Swann :—

Adult *Aquila nipalensis orientalis* can, as a rule, easily be distinguished from adult *A. rapax*, and only a very few specimens are somewhat difficult to name—not many, though the tails give no good differentiative coloration. Mr. Swann said that his supposed "*Aquila rapax culleni*" agreed in measurements with some specimens of *rapax* ; that is true, but it is a male and agrees with female *rapax*, never with males! Mr. Swann, in order to carry his point, has to show that it does *not* agree with other males of *A. nipalensis orientalis*, but this he has not done. The measurements he gives are not of too great importance, as they were taken from four "selected" specimens of each form, while I have measured one hundred examples of *A. nipalensis* and *A. rapax*. My statement that *A. rapax*, *raptor*, *belisarius*, *vindhana*, *nipalensis*, and *orientalis* are subspecies of one species is only a tentative proposal, which may require modification because of distribution, but I believe it is correct and will be done in future by those who thoroughly study these Eagles.

Dr. P. R. Lowe sent the following note :—

"In 'The Ibis' for January 1919, pp. 48–51, the late Mr. C. Chubb had a note on the Rails of the genus *Pardi-*

rallus from Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, or Argentina. As I had occasion recently to examine these Rails, the following brief remarks may not be altogether valueless :—

" (1) It seems quite clear that if the *Rallus maculatus* of Bodd. (Tabl. Pl. Enl. 1783, p. 48, Cayenne) is to stand as the type of the genus *Pardirallus*, such forms as *P. rytirhynchus* and *P. sanguinolentus* or *nigricans* cannot be included therein. The very striking difference in colour-pattern alone, to mention only one character, precludes this.

" (2) *Ortygonax* seems the next available generic name for the *Rallus rytirhynchus* of Vieillot, the *Rallus sanguinolentus* of Swainson, and the *Rallus nigricans* of Vieillot.

" (3) After a very careful examination of the material available, I am unable to agree with Mr. Chubb when he says that the difference between *O. rytirhynchus* and *O. sanguinolentus* can only be regarded as subspecific. In *O. rytirhynchus* we have dark centres to the mantle and dorsal feathers and, not to go into details, a more typical Ralline appearance. In *O. sanguinolentus* the coloration of the dorsal region is uniform and, as I am inclined to think, more generalized and primitive.

" (4) It is obvious from the occurrence of two subspecies of *O. rytirhynchus* in Peru—to wit, *O. r. simonsi* and *O. r. tschudii*—that it cannot be said that the species *O. rytirhynchus* ' is not found on the western side of the Andes.'

" (5) The genus *Ortygonax* would then appear to be comprised as follows :—

" *Ortygonax rytirhynchus rytirhynchus* (Vieillot).
" " *simonsi* (Chubb).
" " *tschudii* (Chubb).
" *sanguinolentus sanguinolentus* (Swainson).
" " *vigilantis* (Sharpe).
" *nigricans nigricans* (Vieillot).
" " *humilis* (Berl. & Stolz.).

" In addition to this there are three birds from Arequipa, Peru ; one from Malva, Cajabamba, Peru, and another from Suecha, Huamachuco, Peru, all of which Mr. Chubb

apparently regarded as belonging to his *O. r. simonsi*, but which from the uniform coloration of the dorsum seem to be referable to the *O. sanguinolentus* group."

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited three eggs of the Wood-Lark (*Alauda a. arborea*) with that of the Cuckoo (*Cuculus c. canorus*), taken in Surrey on June 14, 1925, and made the following remarks :—

"This clutch was found within about half-a-mile of the spot where Major Smeed and Lieut. Dyson discovered their clutch in 1923, and exhibited by myself at the B. O. C. and recorded in the 'Bulletin,' vol. xliv. p. 20.

"The Cuckoo's egg, however, is obviously from another bird, and has a very distinctive olive-grey ground-colour, with greyish-brown superimposed markings, forming an irregular zone at the large end.

"The eggs of the foster-parents are typical, though exceptionally well marked with reddish-brown.

"As the only two other British records for this fosterer are apparently considered to be unsatisfactory, I claim that this record is the second, and Major Smeed's and Lieut. Dyson's must remain the first.

"I exhibit both clutches for comparison."

[As pointed out by Mr. Jourdain (Brit. Birds, xvii. p. 203), the late Mr. F. Bond and also Mr. J. W. Clutterbuck have recorded the Wood-Lark as a fosterer for the Cuckoo. We understand that both Mr. Stuart Baker and Mr. H. Massey have in their collections clutches of Wood-Larks' eggs with that of the Cuckoo, taken in this country.]

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited a clutch of five eggs of the Marsh-Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*), from Landsberg, June 3, 1908, remarkable for their size, together with a typical clutch for comparison.

Average measurements: 5 eggs, 23·1 × 14 mm. (*Bunyard*), 19·1 × 13·9 mm. (*Rey*); maximum 20·2 × 13·7; minimum 18·1 × 13·2 (*Rey*); average weight, 5 eggs, 120 m.g. (*Bunyard*), 100·4 m.g., 54 eggs (*Rey*).

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, 9th December, 1925, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* N. B. Kinnear, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

Reading Room

PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCI.

The two-hundred-and-ninety-seventh Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, December 9th, 1925.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—D. A. Bannerman; F. J. F. Barrington; C. D. Borrer; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; Sir Percy Cox; A. Ezra; Major S. S. Flower; The Hon. M. Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); Dr. P. R. Lowe; N. S. Lucas; J. M. D. Mackenzie; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; J. L. C. Musters; C. Oldham; R. H. Read; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; B. W. Tucker; H. M. Wallis; C. de Worms.

Visitors:—A. C. Lyell; W. G. Stuart-Menteth; S. Nakashima.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited a series of the eggs of the Semi-palmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) from his own and Mr. Massey's collection, together with a series of the Ringed Plover (*Ch. hiaticula hiaticula*) for comparison, and made the following remarks :—

Apparently the eggs of *semipalmatus* have been known since 1845–54. Thienemann figures two not very typical eggs ('Fortpflanzungsgeschichte der gesammten Vögel,' tab. lix. fig. 5, *a*, *b*). They do not appear to have been figured in any British works.

Since this bird was added to the British list in 1916, on the strength of one Sussex record, a fair number of eggs have been obtained by collectors in this country from Labrador.

Only very meagre and totally inadequate descriptions have so far appeared in British works, and no serious attempt has been made at making a comparative study between the eggs of the Old and New World forms of these Ringed Plovers.

Comparative Systematic Synopsis.

Ch. semipalmatus.	*Ch. h. hiaticula.*
Ground-colour.	
Greyish-white, greenish-drab, brownish-drab, reddish-brown.	Creamy-white, warm cream, greenish-white, buff, reddish-brown.
Colour of markings.	
Brownish-black, jet-black, more superimposed.	Brownish-black, jet-black.
Underlying markings.	
Greyish, almost absent.	Ash-grey, greyish-black, inconspicuous.
Measurements.	
22 eggs [Bunyard].	
Av. 33·5×24 mm.	Av. 35·8×25·6 mm.
Max. 36×24 mm.	Max. 39×26 mm.
Min. 32×23·8 mm.	Min. 33·8×25·4 mm.
Practical Handbook. 22 eggs.	
Av. 33·9×23·9 mm.	
Max. 36·2×24·3 mm.	
Min. 31·4×22·7 mm.	

Weights.

22 eggs [Bunyard].

Av. 508·7 mg.	Av. 699·9 mg.
Max. 572 mg.	Max. 809 mg.
Min. 440 mg.	Min. 614 mg.

Texture of Shell.

Coarsely though evenly granulated.	Finely granulated, showing more polish.

Shape.

Pyriform, to long ovoidal.	Distinctly pyriform.

General Remarks.

It will be seen from the above figures that the eggs of *Ch. semipalmatus* are smaller and lighter; this appears to be constant, and there is practically no overlapping. Typical eggs of *Ch. h. hiaticula* are, on the average, not so heavily marked.

Dr. Ernst Hartert gave a short *ex tempore* account of *Œnanthe œnanthe seebohmi*, its differences from *Œ. œ. œnanthe*, distribution, nests, and eggs. This form wa first discovered on Mount Mahmel in the Aurès Mountains in South Algeria, by Messrs. Elwes and Dixon, in 1882; they brought home two males. After that nothing was known of it, until ten years later Professor Koenig visited Djebel Mahmel and found Seebohm's Chat rather scarce, but obtained three skins, among them one of a female. Another ten or eleven years later Mr. Flückiger, a Swiss taxidermist, found *Œ. œ. seebohmi* not at all rare on Mt. Mahmel, Mt. Chelia, and "Montagne Nue" in the Aurès Mountains, and he also obtained the young, described and figured by Kleinschmidt in "Berajah." In 1898 it was discovered in the southern or Great Atlas by Dodson, and in 1906 by Riggenbach.

But it was not until 1919 that our knowledge of Seebohm's Chat was again greatly added to, when Admiral Lynes found it abundant on the plateau above Azrou in the Middle Atlas of Marocco. He also found several clutches of eggs; until then only known from single eggs (one each) found on the

ground, without nest, on Djebel Mahmel by Koenig and Flückiger—not identified, though they must have been the eggs of our bird, as they were found at considerable elevations on Djebel Mahmel, where no other species of the genus occurs in the breeding-season. This I can confirm, for in 1909, on May 12th, our faithful taxidermist Hilgert and I ascended Mt. Mahmel to its top and spent several hours in the region of Seebohm's Chat, collecting easily a selection of thirteen specimens—the species being common. The eggs taken by Lynes are unspotted or with very small spots.

Last year I was on the plateau above Azrou, where *Œ. œ. seebohmi* is common, but was evidently too early for eggs This year, however, I obtained, with my companion, Fred Young, two clutches and a single dropped egg found on the ground. The eggs of one clutch are quite spotless, those of the other have fairly large spots, the single egg tiny dots. The single egg found on the ground by Flückiger was figured in Kleinschmidt's 'Berajah' (as pointed out by Mr. Jourdain), but it is too pale, since eggs from Marocco are rather rich blue, though not constantly different from European examples. The nests, some of which contained young, were found under stones or under stone-heaps. They were not very substantial, consisting chiefly of rootlets, with a few fine grasses, and very few feathers in the lining, a few horse-tail hairs, and a piece of string; altogether quite like many nests of *Œ. œ. œnanthe* in Europe.

We know thus a good many places where this bird lives, and doubtless more will be discovered; but it will always be local, as it requires level plateaux or slopes with not too long grass and many stones or rocks, a combination not found in many places in the Algerian Atlas, though more often in Marocco. It inhabits elevations of from about 1600 to 2000 metres, but is occasionally found lower down during the breeding-season, to about 1200 m. In winter its breeding-places are covered with very deep snow, consequently they must leave them, but the true winter-quarters are not yet known. Mr. Whitaker of Palermo once sent an

Italian collector to Djebel Mahmel to discover the eggs, but the man only found *Œnanthe hispanica* and its eggs.

It is absolutely certain that the man never took the trouble to ascend to the home of Seebohm's Chat, as *Œ. hispanica* is common about the foot of Djebel Mahmel, about 1000 to 1200 m., while no collector could entirely miss *seebohmi* at about 1800 to 2000 m.

Lord Rothschild supplemented Dr. Hartert's remarks and said that the latter had, in his presence, shot a female of *Œ. œ. seebohmi* near Biskra on October 19th, 1920, so that it was proved that it left the snow-covered heights for the winter months, and probably it would one day be oftener found in the Algerian desert.

Mr. W. L. Sclater communicated the following description of a new African Weaver :—

Cryptospiza salvadorii ruwenzori, subsp. nov.

Resembling *C. s. salvadorii*, but not so richly coloured, the head and nape of a slightly more dusky-greyish tinge and the crimson of the back and rump less rich below, the general colour is a pearly-grey without the green wash characteristic of the Abyssinian bird ; the throat is the same colour as the rest of the underparts and lacks the pale tawny patch characteristic of the typical race ; it also lacks the tawny spot on the lores and below the eye. From *C. s. borealis* the Ruwenzori race differs in having the crimson of the back distinctly marked off from the dusky grey of the nape, whereas in *C. s. borealis* the two colours gradually fade into one another and the crimson is never so strongly developed. The rosy patch on the flanks varies, being nearly absent in some cases, and there is no red on the under tail-coverts.

Measurements of the type, a male.—Wing 55 mm., tail 45, culmen 10, tarsus 15. The female does not differ appreciably, and the dimensions of the typical race are identical.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Mubuku valley, on the

eastern slopes of Ruwenzori, collected by R. B. Woosnam on 12 March, 1906, at an altitude of 7000 ft., Reg. no. 1906/12/23/319.

When Mr. Ogilvie-Grant described the Ruwenzori collection he had no Abyssinian examples with which to compare the fine series of this Crimson-ring, of which two males and four females were obtained in the Mubuku valley, and a single male in the Butagu valley on the opposite side of the range. In addition to this series, I have examined an example from Il-polossal, Laikipia district, 7500 ft., in Sir F. Jackson's collection, and a female from Mt. Kinangop in the Aberdeen Range at 11,000 ft. This last is marked a female, and may be a young bird, as the crimson of the back is not nearly so conspicuous as in the other examples. Dr. van Someren (Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 155) also provisionally identifies birds in his collection from both Mt. Elgon and Mt. Kenya with *C. salvadorii*; these are almost certainly identical with the Ruwenzori birds.

I am inclined to unite the other species of this genus without a red face under Reichenow's typical race, and we shall then have the following :—

Cryptospiza salvadorii salvadorii Reichw.
Distr. S. & S.W. Abyssinia.

C. s. ruwenzori [see above].

C. s. australis Shelley.
Distr. Nyasaland.

C. s. borealis Percival.
Distr. Mt. Unguess or Gargues, north of the Northern Guasso Nyiro in Kenya Colony.

Count N. Gyldenstolpe sent the following nomenclatorial note on *Phylloscopus trochiloides* Sundevali and *Sylvia conspicillata bella* Tschusi :—

Having recently had the opportunity of making a critical examination of the type-specimens of birds kept in the Collections of the R. Nat. Hist. Museum in Stockholm,

I have found that some changes in nomenclature unfortunately are inevitable.

The type-specimen of *Acanthiza trochiloides* Sundevall ('Physiografiska Sällskapets Tidskrift,' Lund, 1837, p. 76) has generally been considered as lost (*cf.* Stresemann, Orn. Monatsber. 1924, pp. 8–9, footnote), but I have now rediscovered it, and it is kept in our Collection.

In the type there is no indication whatever of a light coronal band. Furthermore, Sundevall already stated in the original description "Caput paullulum fusco-tinctum," and did not mention the existence of such a stripe. The 2nd primary is about equal in length to the 10th, and the 1st primary is longer than that of *Phylloscopus* (*Acanthopneuste*) *trochiloides* auct.

It is thus clearly evident that *Phylloscopus* (*Acanthopneuste*) *trochiloides* auct. is not conspecific with *Phylloscopus* (*Acanthopneuste*) *trochiloides* Sundevall, and it becomes absolutely inevitable that *Phylloscopus* (*Acanthopneuste*) *lugubris* auct. must be called *Phylloscopus* (*Acanthopneuste*) *trochiloides* Sundev., and *Phylloscopus* (*Acanthopneuste*) *trochiloides* auct. must in future be known as *Phylloscopus* (*Acanthopneuste*) *reguloides* Blyth.

The type-specimen of *Acanthiza trochiloides* Sundev. was obtained at Calcutta on the 15th of February, 1828. Besides the differences noted above, it agrees well in colour and size with specimens of *Phylloscopus* (*Acanthopneuste*) *lugubris* auct. In the original description of *Acanthiza trochiloides* Sundev. there is, however, an unfortunate misprint which I want to draw attention to. The length of the wing is thus given to 47 mm., but in the type the wing measures 57 mm.

In the year 1854 (Övers. K. Sv. Vet.-Akad. Förhandl. p. 160) the well-known Swedish naturalist, Mr. J. A. Wahlberg, published a description of a supposed new species of *Sylviidæ*. This description was drawn from specimens obtained by him on the Cape Verde Islands.

The bird was named *Prinia orbitalis*, and a full and very accurate description in Latin was appended. This

name appears to have been entirely forgotten by recent authors.

The type-specimens of *Prinia orbitalis* Wahlberg (♂ ♀) are still kept in our Collections and belong to the same form that was separated by Tschusi (Orn. Monatsber. 1901, p. 130) as *Sylvia conspicillata bella*, the terra typica of which was Madeira. Thanks to the kind assistance of Dr. Stresemann of the Berlin Museum, I have had the opportunity of comparing Wahlberg's specimens with a series of *Sylvia conspicillata bella* Tschusi from Madeira and the Canary Islands. These specimens are perfectly identical both as regards size and colour with our birds from the Cape Verde Islands. The form from the Cape Verde Islands, Madeira, and the Canary Islands must therefore be called *Sylvia conspicillata orbitalis* Wahlberg (terra typica: St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands), of which *Sylvia conspicillata bella* Tschusi becomes a pure synonym.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, 13th January, 1926, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby,	N. B. Kinnear,	George C. Low,
Chairman.	*Editor.*	*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

PURCHASED

Bird Room

9 FEB 1926
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCII.

The two-hundred-and-ninety-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, January 13th, 1926.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; E. C. Stuart Baker; F. J. F. Barrington; Count Bobrinskoy; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; Capt. H. L. Cochrane, R.N.; R. H. Deane; Lt.-Col. A. Delmé-Radcliffe; Lt.-Col. H. Delmé-Radcliffe; A. H. Evans; A. Ezra; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. P. R. Lowe; Rear-Admiral H. Lynes; C. Mackworth-Praed; Capt. W. E. F. Macmillan; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath; T. H. Newman; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; Major A. G. L. Sladen; H. Stevens.

Visitors:—Walter Goodfellow; H. B. Hans Hamilton; J. Spedan Lewis; M. P. Phillips.

Lord Rothschild read the following notes on the variation in *Centropus ateralbus* (Less.), and exhibited a series of specimens to illustrate his remarks :—

He said : " I am exhibiting to-night a series of 44 examples of *Centropus ateralbus* from New Ireland, New Britain, and Rook Island to illustrate the extraordinary individual variation of the coloration. The normal young birds and nestlings are deep brown with purplish gloss on tail and wings and with buffy-brown shaft-streaks in the front half of body above, and dark sooty-brown or slate below, with buffish shaft-streaks and apical spots on breast and throat ; a few pale streaks on wing-coverts. Normal (*i. e.*, first-described) adults have the crown, back, tail, wings, and abdomen purplish-black ; breast, throat, cheeks, hind neck, sides of neck, and interscapulium buffy-white. Greater primary wing-coverts white. In addition to these two plumages, we find a most weird range of coloration, from entirely black to greyish-white or almost all over greyish-white. Some examples are dirty pearl-grey with the white as in normal examples ; some are pearl-grey all over with stray black feathers ; others are black with scattered white feathers ; again, some have the hind neck varying from entirely black to white with a narrow central bar. One example is entirely dirty white with a few darker feathers. All the pearl-grey varieties, as well as the white one, show dark coloration in varying degrees round the eyes and on the crown. Among the pearl-grey birds is an immature example in the first juvenile plumage ; this bird has the back, wings, and tail pearl-grey, save for two small black splashes on the tail ; the head and cheeks are sooty-grey with buffish-orange shaft-lines ; the hind neck, sides of neck, and interscapulium are buffish-brown with buffish-orange shaft-lines ; throat and breast buff with paler shaft-lines ; abdomen greyish-buff.

" Among the more normal birds—*i. e.*, those agreeing with Lesson's original diagnosis—we find almost every gradation between a complete black crown and a narrow frontal black band, including specimens with irregular black streaks and patches. I also show, to complete the series, three specimens

belonging to the British Museum : one is pure white, one is white with a single black tail-feather, and the third is normal in the main dark areas but has whole head, face, breast, neck, and interscapulium bright buff."

Lord Rothschild and Dr. Ernst Hartert exhibited and described an apparently extinct and unknown bird of the family *Drepanididæ*, said to be from the Hawaiian or Sandwich Islands :—

Sassius, gen. nov.

Bill long and curved like that of a *Hemignathus*, but in comparison much thicker, not narrowing down soon beyond the nostrils, and upper and under bill apparently of about the same length ; in *Hemignathus* the upper bill surpasses the lower mandible, even in the smallest species, *H. obscurus*, about 5 mm. ; it is true that the tip of the upper bill is damaged in the specimen of *Sassius*, but apparently very little is missing. Covering of nostril apparently as in *Hemignathus*. Size much less than that of the smallest *Hemignathus*, coloration altogether different. Feet fairly strong for such a small bird.

Sassius simplex, sp. nov.

Bill brown. Forehead, lores, ear-coverts, crown, upper neck, fore-part of back, and sides of breast mummy-brown ; rest of upperside to upper tail-coverts dull chestnut. Wings brown. Rectrices brown like the crown, with paler edges. Entire underside creamy-white. Bill from feathers on forehead with compasses 26, the twelve-feathered tail about (base embedded in glue) 35, tarsus 14–15 mm.

Hab. Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands.

Type in Vienna Museum.

This bird has been mounted in the Vienna Museum for 120 years, and stood under the name "*Drepanis* (*Certhia*) *obscura*? L. Gmel. fem." It was brought to Berlin and shown during the 75th anniversary of the German Ornithological Society by Dr. M. Sassi, who came across it and

recognized that the determination was erroneous. Dr. Sassi entrusted Hartert with the bird, and asked him to get it described if he thought it necessary. Unfortunately, the feathers of the body are glued on to a wooden model, and the wing-feathers have their base and part of the inner web cut off, apparently as the taxidermist found the entire wing too big for the small wooden body, and thus produced a very neat and sleek little bird, though the body appears too small for the head. A look through a microscope and an X-ray photograph, which Dr. Percy Lowe had kindly made in London, show without doubt that the bill and skull belong to one and the same individual—that is to say, that there is complete continuity between the maxilla and mandible on the one part, and the nasals, frontals, and squamosal part (quadrate etc.) of the skull on the other,—also that the skin and its feathers belong to the bill and skull. Of the rest nothing can be said with absolute certainty, the body-feathers being glued on to a wooden model; the wings are remnants and must have been larger; the tail is complete and glued on together, the legs are stuck in with wires. But, as the feathers of the whole underside are absolutely the same as those of the throat (which are genuine), and the whole upperside looks complete and unbroken, there is no reasonable doubt that the bird looked somewhat as it is now, only larger. Finally, as no bird is known with such a head, it is necessary to make it known to science.

Unfortunately its history is not known. It reached the Vienna Museum, according to the label, in 1806, and is entered in the catalogue thus: "1806 I 534 *a*. *Drepanis* (*Certhia*) *obscura*? L. Gmel. fem. von Stutz. Sandwich Ins." Von Stutz was a gentleman who gave birds to the Museum, not a traveller or explorer. Further details are therefore, according to Dr. Sassi, not available. But, as there is every appearance that the bird belonged to the *Drepanididæ*, which were restricted to the Sandwich Islands, and as a number of birds are known which are now extinct on that group, we can only conclude, and it is quite within reason, that *Sassius simplex* is a hitherto unknown extinct

bird, formerly inhabiting the Hawaiian Islands. It must be added that this is also the opinion of Drs. Sassi and Stresemann, who examined the bird, and of Dr. Percy Lowe, who took the trouble of procuring the X-ray photo. Needless to say, the generic name is given in honour of Dr. Moriz Sassi, of Vienna, the specific one on account of its—for a Drepanidid—plain-coloured plumage.

Lord Rothschild and Dr. Ernst Hartert also exhibited two new species from New Britain, which they described as follows:—

Accipiter luteoschistaceus, sp. n.

♂ ad. *Accipiter* cera aurantia, superne schistaceus, gastræo toto luteo, præpectore cinereo-brunneo fasciato. Al. 187,190, caud. 139,143, digito medio 28 mm.

Hab. Insula New Britain dicta.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♂; Talasea, New Britain, 21.iv.25. A. F. Eichhorn coll.

Two males of this new Hawk were sent by Mr. Albert F. Eichhorn from Talasea on the N. coast of West New Britain. They are above pure slate-colour, underneath buff, on the chest narrowly cross-barred, in one with grey, in the other more brown. The under wing-coverts are uniform buff like the abdomen, the primaries buff towards the base on the inner webs, which are barred with slaty-black. The iris is described as orange-yellow and bright yellow. Bill black, feet dark or orange-yellow; the cere is not described, but is bright orange in the skin. The second primary is equal to the seventh, the toes are short, middle toe without claw 26 and 28 mm.

Turdus talaseæ, sp. n.

Turdus ("*Oreocincla*") supra schistaceus, nigro lunulatus, alarum tectricibus mediis majoribusque late albo terminatis, subtus albus, lateribus nigro lunulatis; rostro nigro, pedibus pallide corneis. Al. 107, caud. 80 mm.

Hab. Talasea, insula New Britain dicta occidentali.

Type in the Tring Museum, ♀ ; Talasea, New Britain, 12.1.25. A. F. Eichhorn coll.

This Thrush belongs to the section called "*Oreocincla*" by genus-splitters, but differs from its nearest geographical allies (*Turdus dauma papuensis*, *eichhorni*, and *choiseuli*) strikingly in colour. It is by no means yet certain that *T. d. eichhorni* is the only form on the islands of the Bismarck Archipelago, though it has not yet been discovered anywhere else than on St. Matthias Island. The second primary equals the sixth in length, the third to fifth being equally long ; in *T. d. papuensis* the shape of the wing is similar, while in *T. d. eichhorni* the first is shorter than the sixth, sometimes as short as the seventh, and in the only known skin of *choiseuli* it seems to be longer than the sixth, but is different in the two wings.

The upperside is not brown, but greyish slate-colour, darkest on the head, lightest on the rump, the edges of the feathers with glossless black edges, giving the back a lunulated appearance. These black edges are narrower on the rump and disappear on the upper tail-coverts. Sides of the head slaty-black with white dots and a white patch with black specks on the ear-coverts. Underside white, sides with black edges to the feathers, widest under the wing, narrower towards the middle which is white, and on the sides of the neck; under tail-coverts white. Quills blackish-brown, bases of inner webs from the third white, causing a "Geocichline" pattern, the ante-penultimate secondary with white edge to the inner web ; upper wing-coverts dull black, middle and largest series with big white tips, producing two oblique bars across the wings ; outer webs of primaries with greyish-brown edges ; under wing-coverts brownish black, the longest with white tips ; axillaries white with wide black tips. Rectrices slaty-black, lateral pair with triangular white tips, much longer on the outermost pair. "Iris dark brown, bill black ; feet light horn-colour." Wing 107 mm ; tail 80 mm.

A single female only was obtained by Mr. Albert F. Eichhorn on 12 February, 1925, at an altitude of 1900 feet.

It was shot off the nest. The nest is an oblong cone about 20 cm. long, entirely of moss, here and there interwoven with rootlets, and on top is a neat cup entirely consisting of fine rootlets. The two eggs look like elongated small Blackbirds' eggs with fine rufous spots, more numerous towards the thick end. They measure 29 × 19·5 and 28 × 19·2 mm. Nest and eggs were also exhibited.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain exhibited a clutch of eggs of the Tawny Pipit (*Anthus c. campestris*), and made the following remarks:—

Most modern works on the Ornithology of the British Isles contain some reference to the breeding of the Tawny Pipit in England (*e. g.*, Kirkman's 'British Bird Book,' i. p. 233; Brit. Birds, i. p. 112; Zool. 1906, p. 463; 'Hand-list,' p. 33; B. O. U. List, p. 47; 'Practical Handbook,' i. p. 176, etc.).

The only positive evidence of the breeding of this species in England lies in the box which I am exhibiting to-night.

As far as published statements go, nearly all that can be pointed to in support of this assertion is the late M. J. Nicoll's statement in the Hastings and East Coast Nat. (i. p. 183). Here after giving details of twenty-three occurrences in Sussex, including three in 1904 (14 Aug., 17 Aug., and 26 Sept.), he states that "a pair undoubtedly bred in Sussex in 1905 and possibly the following year. For obvious reasons I do not give the exact locality. I might say that in 1906 I myself saw one of the adult birds collecting nesting-materials."

Soon after the clutch was taken, the eggs were purchased by the late Sir Vauncey Crewe. It is generally known that he had a very strong antipathy to any information being published as to eggs or birds in his possession, and stipulated that nothing should be communicated on the subject. No details of the occurrence were allowed to leak out, although known to several people in the neighbourhood. When the collection was sold on 15 Dec. last, the clutch was catalogued

(in italics) as Lot 196 "*Tawny Pipit*, c/3, June 1905," no locality being given. Probably it was not recognized by any one else present—at any rate, it was sold for a comparatively small sum with another lot.

Fortunately the eggs are unusually light in colour, and are therefore readily recognizable. I have received full details of the nesting, but only wish to correct the date assigned, which should be 23 May, 1905. For this information I am indebted to Mr. J. A. Walpole Bond, who ascertained it from the actual finder of the nest.

Mr. A. L. Butler exhibited some examples of *Topaza pella* which he had recently received from the neighbourhood of Pará. The species had been obtained from this locality by Hoffmanns in 1905, but the only specimen procured by him, now in the Tring Museum, was a moulting ♀. The small series now shown included two adult ♂♂, a sub-adult ♂ without elongated tail-feathers, and a ♀ taken on the nest, and made it clear that the species is represented south of the mouths of the Amazon by a form smaller and conspicuously smaller-billed than the races hitherto described.

This form Mr. Butler proposed to distinguish as follows :—

Topaza pella microrhyncha, subsp. nov.

A small race with wing (in two adult ♂♂) 77–81·5 mm.; bill 20 mm.; elongated rectrices (straightened) 92–98 mm.; outer rectrices 47 mm. In colour nearest to *T. pella pella*, the crimson of the hind neck shading gradually into the more orange-red back, and the throat-patch of a very ruddy, almost coppery, topaz, greenish only at the edges. A sub-adult ♂ has a bill of 20·5 and wing of 76 mm.; adult ♀, bill 21 mm., wing 70 mm.

Type (No. 3593, A. L. Butler Coll.). ♂, Pará, Utinga, Matta de Igapó, 14.12.25. Collected by F. de Queiroz Lima.

In one form or another *Topaza pella* is now known to

range from some 48° W. (Pará) to 75° W. (Napo, Ecuador), and from about 7° N. in British Guiana to 3° S. on the Amazon (Manaos).

Simon divides the birds from the Guianas into two subspecies :—

T. pella pella (L.). Dutch and British Guiana.

T. pella smaragdula (L. Bosc). French Guiana.

[Simon wrongly writes Bosc's name as *smaragdina*.]

These two forms, as distinguished by him, are readily recognizable, but their respective ranges require further working out.

Under the name of *T. pella pamprepta* [not *pampreta*, as quoted by Simon] Oberholser has separated as distinct the birds obtained by Goodfellow at Suno on the Napo. The differences given are mainly the longer tail and shorter wing-measurements. The type is in America, and there are no specimens of these Ecuador birds in English collections. The locality is so remote from the Guianas that this form may well prove distinct.

All of these races are appreciably larger birds than *T. p. microrhyncha*, with bills of from 23 to 24·5 mm.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear exhibited a mounted specimen of a Blue Tit (*Parus cæruleus*), in which the head, wings, and tail were white, with blue-grey markings, while the rest of the body was pale saffron-yellow. This beautiful variety was shot near Kilgethy, Pembrokeshire, on Nov. 15, 1925, and presented by Col. F. Lort Phillips to the National Collection, where it will be on exhibition shortly.

Messrs. C. Boden Kloss and J. N. Chasen sent the following descriptions of new races of Oriental birds :—

Cyanops franklini minor, subsp. nov.

Like *C. franklini ramsayi*, but smaller. Wings of fifteen examples from the mountains of Perak, Selangor, and Pahang, Federated Malay States, 91–97 mm. against

96–103 mm. in a large series from Mt. Muleyit, Tenasserim, and 96–107 mm. from the South Shan States.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, collected on Gunong Ijau, Perak, 4700 ft., on 24th August, 1909, by C. Boden Kloss. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926. 1. 13. 1. Wing 94 mm.

Obs. This mountain species is apparently not yet known from the country between Muleyit and the Federated Malay States.

Tephrodornis pondicerianus thai, subsp. nov.

More nearly resembling in general colour *T. p. affinis* of Ceylon than the typical Indian race, but the white of the rump much reduced.

Four males and three females from Ta Chang Thai, Raheng, West Siam, 600 ft., 24th and 26th July, 1924. Wings 84–87 mm.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, collected on 24th July. No. 406. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1925. 7. 12. 1. Wing 87 mm.

The series was obtained by a collector accompanying Mr. K. G. Gairdner during a tour to the north of Raheng.

Obs. The three birds from South Annam recorded by Robinson and Kloss ('Ibis,' 1919, p. 603) as *T. pondicerianus* probably belong to this race.

Mr. Walter Goodfellow made the following remarks :—

The Central Division of Papua was the part visited, and the highest point reached between 9,000 and 10,000 feet among the Enongi tribes on the mountains running between Mount Yule on the west to the main Owen Stanley range on the east. The journey occupied about ten marching days from the coast, journeying almost due north, up incredibly steep razor-backed ridges, with deep narrow valleys between. The only Birds of Paradise met with at the highest altitude reached were *Epimachus meyeri* and *Astrapia stephaniæ*, both of which seemed fairly abundant. Living specimens of these were obtained, but only *A. stephaniæ* arrived home alive. The Painted-necked Cassowary,

C. picticollis, was shot at 9000 feet and also lower down at about 4000 feet.

At 5000 feet *Paradisea raggiana*, *Parotia lawesi*, *Lophorina superbâ minor*, *Diphyllodes magnifica hunsteini*, and *Paradisornis rudolphi* were all met with in the one locality and successfully landed here alive. *L. s. minor* and *D. m. hunsteini* were particularly plentiful, constantly heard, but not seen without the exercise of much patience. *P. rudolphi* was by far the least common of them all ; not more than three or four specimens were encountered within as many months. In May two nestlings of this species were brought into camp by a native, one of which is now living in the London Zoo. The nest was placed not more than 12 feet from the ground in a low tree of the thick bush near the top of a ridge. It was composed of strips of pandanus-leaves and fibre from the leaves of some palm and with no lining. The young birds at first looked grotesquely spiney, owing to the abnormally long grey pin-feathers which covered them all over. Each quill ended in a small tuft of grey down which dropped off with a large part of the quill as they grew, leaving the newly-opened feathers the normal length. The orbital region, and, in fact, the greater part of the head, remained bare long after the rest of the body was covered with feathers.

In spite of *P. raggiana* being much persecuted by the natives in this district, the Deva-devas, who are great plume-traders, besides being noted for their elaborate ceremonial feather head-dresses, they seem to have increased very considerably since the Government enforced more rigid protection for all Paradise Birds, and this species in particular. I heard that the same was the case in other parts of the territory. It will be a great pity if the country is opened up again for plume-hunting, which I believe finds favour in some quarters. The native demand for feathers keeps the birds quite sufficiently in check. *P. raggiana* was heard calling from the coast-level (one day's journey inland) up to nearly 6000 feet. *P. lawesi* was also obtained in the latter altitude.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following :—

Notochibia monica, new name for *Chibia densa* Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. iii. p. 241 (1877). Timor (not Gray, 1870).

Meliphaga lombokia, new name for *Ptilotis virescens* Wallace (*cf.* Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. ix. pl. vii. fig. 1), not Vieillot, 1817.

Scæophaethon rubricauda roseotincta, new name for *Phaëthon rubricauda erubescens* Rothschild 1900, not Gray 1844.

Poliolimnas cinereus collingwoodi, new name for *P. c. ocularis* Ingram, 1911, preoccupied as a synonym of *cinereus* Vieillot.

Hæmatæna richmondena, new name for *Columba melanocephala* Pennant 1769, not Brünnich 1764.

Nycticorax caledonicus pelewensis, subsp. nov.

Differs from *N. c. hilli* Mathews in being smaller and more dusky in tint, the inner webs of the quills being dull chestnut.

Distr. Pelew Islands.

Type in the British Museum. Pelew Islands. Cohen Coll. Brit. Mus. Reg. 78.10.29.18.

Poliolimnas cinereus moluccanus, subsp. nov.

Differs from *P. c. cinereus* (V.) in being lighter generally ; it is also smaller in bill and wing measurements.

Type in the Tring Museum. ♀ ad. Mt. Fogi, W. Buru. 18.ii.1902. Kuhn Coll. No. 4955.

Distr. Moluccas to Key Islands and Lesser Sunda Islands.

Pseudochlamydera, gen. nov.

Differs from *Chlamydera* Gould in lacking the nuchal crest.

Type, *Chlamydera lauterbachi* Reichenow.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst forwarded the following description of a new race of *Phylloscopus* :—

Phylloscopus maculipennis virens, subsp. nov.

Resembles *Phylloscopus maculipennis maculipennis*, but has the sides of the crown paler slate-grey ; the olive-green of the upper parts and wings brighter, less olive, green ; the throat is usually a paler grey.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Banjar, Saraj, Punjab, Himalaya, 4500 ft. 15 Nov., 1923. No. 5380, H. Whistler Coll. Brit. Mus. Reg. 1926. 1. 20. 1.

Distribution. N.W. Himalayas.

Obs. This *Phylloscopus* has an Eastern and a Western Himalayan race, just as *P. proregulus* and *P. pulcher* have ; and in each species the qualitative differences between the two forms are similar. I have only seen *P. m. virens* from Dharmsala–Mandi districts, whence Mr. H. Whistler obtained seven specimens, and I have examined a large series from Nepal and Sikkim.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, 10th February, 1926, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1, the Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine are requested to inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

The Subscription for 1925–1926—£1 1s. 0d.—became due on the 1st of October last. Members who do not pay this by Banker's Order, or who have not already paid, will greatly oblige if they will send their remittance as soon as possible to the Treasurer, Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

The attention of Members is drawn to the fact that the March Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, 10th March, 1926, in conjunction with the British Ornithologists' Union, will be devoted principally to the exhibition of Lantern-slides. The Hon. Secretary will be very glad to hear from any Member who has slides to exhibit, in order that the necessary arrangements may be made.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* N. B. Kinnear, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

9 FEB 1926 PURCHASED
NATURAL HISTORY

Bird Room.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCIII.

The two-hundred-and-ninety-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, February 10th, 1926.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; E. C. Stuart Baker; F. J. F. Barrington; P. F. Bunyard; A. L. Butler; R. H. Deane; A. H. Evans; A. Ezra; Major S. S. Flower; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); N. S. Lucas; J. M. D. Mackenzie; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; J. L. C. Musters; C. Oldham; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; Lord Rothschild; D. Seth-Smith; H. Stevens; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; B. W. Tucker; C. de Worms.

Visitors:—R. J. Clough; G. Pye-Smith.

Lord Rothschild exhibited the various forms of *Fulvetta chrysotis*, and described a new subspecies as follows :—

Fulvetta chrysotis forresti, subsp. nov.

Similar to *F. chrysotis chrysotis*, but underside brighter yellow, with more of an orange tinge, and the crown with a central line of longitudinal white spots, which become tinged with yellow on the nape. Outer edges of secondaries deeper orange. Wings of four specimens, probably all males, though two marked as females, 53–54 mm.

Type in the Tring Museum :—Shweli-Salween divide, Yunnan, December 1919. George Forrest.

Hab. Same as type.

These birds are those which in Nov. Zool. 1921, p. 37, I called *Proparus swinhoei*. Now, having received *F. f. swinhoii* from Kwanhsien, on the Minho, in China, collected by Dr. Weigold, and comparing the original description and figure in the Nouv. Arch. Mus. Paris, I find that this was wrong. The new form agrees with *swinhoii* in the white stripe on the crown, but it has the throat silvery-grey mottled with lighter tips, while it is uniform slaty-black and more extended in *swinhoii*, which has the underside also paler yellow. There can be no doubt that all three forms are subspecies of one species, and this is clearly indicated by some Sikkim specimens of *F. c. chrysotis* having the white stripe clearly indicated in grey. It may be added that Verreaux spelt the name *swinhoii*, and not *swinhoei* as it should have been.

Dr. Ernst Hartert passed round the Meeting a new book of illustrations of Swedish birds by Mr. Bengt Berg, called 'Birds of the North,' which he had presented to the Club, and drew attention to the excellence of the photographs, some of which, he considered, were perfect masterpieces.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst made the following remarks on the types of birds described by Burton in the P. Z. S. for 1835 :—

Mr. Whistler and myself have been at some pains to try and trace the types described by Burton (P. Z. S. 1835) from specimens collected by Dr. W. A. Burke, and such information as we have obtained should, I think, be put on record.

Dr. Burke was the first Inspector-General of Hospitals of H.M. Troops in Bengal (Dec. 1825), and founded the Convalescent Station at Landour in 1830. He died in Calcutta on May 22, 1836, aged 68. The birds which formed part of his collection, and which were described by Burton, were collected "in the Himalayas." These were:—*Sylvia burkii*, *Noctua brodei*, *Phœnicura macgregoriæ*, *Ægithalus flammiceps*, *Sylviparus modestus*, *Picumnus innominatus*. Dr. Burke's collection was presented to the Museum of the Army Medical Department at Fort Pitt, Chatham, and these types were in that Museum. It seemed probable that this collection at some date prior to 1864 was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley; I therefore visited this Hospital and was given every facility by the O.C. to examine the Museum, which contains many mounted specimens of birds, and amongst them I found a certain number of Burke's birds with the old Chatham labels still attached. These were labelled "India," "N. India," and in one case "E. Himalaya," but unfortunately not one of the species described by Burton was amongst the collection. In all there were but fourteen specimens, so that it seems certain that most of Burke's birds have disappeared through the ravages of time, and with them these types.

In 1838 there was published a 'Catalogue of the Collection of Mammals and Birds in the Museum of the Army Medical Department at Fort Pitt, Chatham,' and this was written by Burton, who was a Surgeon to the Forces and Curator of this Museum, but unfortunately this Catalogue affords no further clue, as no precise localities are given in it. Dr. Burke must have travelled extensively and no doubt visited many places in the Himalayas, and these novelties were picked out of the

collection by Burton, and therefore there is no certainty or probability that they came from any one place, and so I think no one place can or should be fixed for the type-locality of these six species.

One point emerges from the perusal of Burton's catalogue. On p. 23 he renames the Yellow-throated Sparrow *Fringilla xanthocollis*, and he says in a footnote that this is the *Fringilla flavicollis* of Franklin and that he has altered the name to *xanthocollis* because Franklin's name is preoccupied. This bird should then stand as *Gymnoris xanthocollis* (Burton) (Cat. Coll. Mus. Army Med. Dept. p. 23, 1838), antedating Bonaparte's *Fringilla xanthosterna*. Burton gives the type-locality as N. India, and this I now restrict to Bengal, the the same locality as Bonaparte's *xanthosterna*.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst also exhibited specimens of *Argya caudata*, and made the following remarks :—In the 'Ibis' (1922, p. 540) I made the remark that *Argya eclipes* (Hume) appeared to be but a variant of the typical race. Insufficient material of *eclipes* misled me, as probably it did Mr. Stuart Baker, as in the 2nd edition of the 'Fauna of British India' he does not recognize this race. It is, however, a perfectly good and very interesting race. Through the kind help of Messrs. Whistler and Osmaston I have got together a small series of this form, which I now exhibit, together with fairly typical *caudata* and *huttoni*. I have very little to add to Hume's extraordinarily good description of *eclipes* ('Stray Feathers,' v. pp. 337–8). You will notice the warmer brown upper parts with the darker and broader central stripes on the head and back, and the larger size, darker ear-coverts, and lack of ochraceous tinge, while the white throat contrasts more strongly with the rest of the underparts ; *huttoni*, on the other hand, is about the same size as *eclipes*, but much paler and greyer above. Hume's type came from Peshawar, and he says that it only occurs in N.W. Punjab, Trans-Indus, and low hills and valleys leading into Cashmere. This is perfectly correct. I have examined the type from Peshawar and others from the Cashmere foot-hills, Attock,

and Rawal Pindi, and one from Fort Sandeman in Baluchistan on the boundary of the N.W.F. Province—in all twelve specimens,—and have had large series of the typical race and of *huttoni* to compare them with. The exact boundaries of *eclipes* want working out, but it would seem that it replaces *caudata* in much the same area as *Pycnonotus l. humei* replaces *P. l. leucotis*.

Measurements:—

	Wing.	Bill from skull.	Tarsus.
♂.	81–87	21–23	28–29·5
♀.	79·5–81	19·5–21	27–28·5

eclipes was figured in 'Lahore to Yarkhand' (plate ix.) as *caudata*.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst further exhibited the juvenile plumages of the following birds: *Saxicola caprata atrata*, *S. c. bicolor*; *Ammomanes deserti phœnicuroides*, *A. d. isabellina*; *Otocorys alpestris flava*, *O. a. longirostris*, and made the following remarks:—

In the 'Ibis' for 1922 there was some discussion on subspecies, and Dr. Lowe considered that two different kinds existed: (1) mutational or discontinuous, which are hereditary and to produce which there must have been some alteration in the chromosomes; (2) somatic or continuous (or, as I call it, qualitative), in which the differences are due to environment, acting as he supposes through the maternal influence on the fertilized ovum, and such differences are not hereditary, and he cited the Bermudan Goldfinch as an example. That is to say, that if this bird was removed from Bermuda to England again it would revert to an English Goldfinch once more, and its progeny would be indistinguishable from English birds. Now it is obvious from these specimens I exhibit that these qualitative differences are not due *directly* to environment, as the differences are manifest as soon as the first feathers are grown and in one case—the Black Francolin—I have already shown these differences are present when the egg is hatched. It therefore seems quite

certain that these differences are fixed and predestined in the embryo from the first and therefore must have come from the parent. This does not contradict Dr. Lowe's theory, but I am not so happy about the reversion taking place as he suggests it will. It has never been proved. It has been proved, of course, that animals will darken if kept in an artificially moist atmosphere (Beebe with birds; Bonhote with *Meriones*), but in neither case were breeding experiments done, and I should much like to see it done. There are, of course, a number of factors at work in Nature producing these qualitative changes, but it should be quite possible for an aviculturist to get some species which is capable of being bred in captivity and which in Nature shows geographical races, and keep these birds under conditions in which one or two factors in environment can be altered at will—*e.g.*, coloration of soil, humidity,—and see if in a few years any changes have taken place in the adults and their progeny.

Mr. A. L. Butler exhibited a specimen of the Scandinavian Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybita abietina* (Nilss.), which had been sent to him for identification by Mr. F. H. L. Whish, who shot it at Lympsham, Somerset, on April 6, 1925. The bird, a male, appeared to be only the second example of this race which had been detected in England, the other record being that of a ♀ obtained by the late Mr. J. L. Bonhote at St. Catherine's Light, Isle of Wight, on April 15, 1907. Mr. Bonhote's specimen was now in the collection of Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, who had kindly lent it to Mr. Butler for comparison with the bird now shown.

Occurrences of this race, according to the 'Practical Handbook of British Birds,' seemed, however, to be sufficiently numerous on islands off the East (Isle of May) and North (Orkneys, Shetlands) coasts of Scotland to justify the assumption that it is a regular spring and autumn passage-migrant. On the west of Scotland it has been recorded, once, from St. Kilda. Probably it frequently passes through

England unrecognized, owing to its resemblance to the common Chiffchaff, *P. c. collybita* (Vieill.).

Mr. Butler added that he happened to be quite familiar with this bird, as it wintered in great numbers in the Sudan.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker made the following remarks on Oriental Woodpeckers, and described certain new races:—

Picus vittatus.—This Woodpecker is very difficult to separate into geographical races on account of the great individual variation to be found over the whole of its habitat. By old authors three species were recognized—*P. vittatus*, *P. viridanus*, and *P. striolatus*. As Stresemann has shown, *striolatus* is preoccupied and must give place to his new name *myrmecophanes*. Gyldenstolpe has named a race from North Siam, *P. v. eisenhoferi*, so that we now have four recognized forms. I find, however, that the Himalayan form is decidedly larger than the plains form, and must therefore be given the rank of subspecies. I propose to call it

Picus vittatus dehræ, subsp. nov.

Nearest to *P. v. myrmecophanes*, but much bigger. On the whole, it is, like most North-West Himalayan forms, brighter and paler than the plains bird, but not, I think, sufficiently so to entitle it to a name on this account only.

Measurements. Wing 134 to 145 mm., as against 110 to 130 mm. in *myrmecophanes*; culmen 29 to 33 mm., as against 25 to 30 mm. in *myrmecophanes*.

Type in the British Museum: ♂, Dehra Dhoon, 2nd Dec., 1870 (*ex* Hume Coll.), Reg. No. 87.8.10.1098.

Distribution. Himalayas, in the lower ranges, from Kumaon to Garhwal and West Nepal.

Obs. Birds from East Nepal are intermediate, but nearly all have wings under 130 mm. and none over 133 mm., so they should be retained with *P. v. myrmecophanes* for the present.

Key to Subspecies of P. vittatus.

A. Chin, throat, and upper breast practically immaculate.	
a. Generally smaller, less squamated on abdomen	*P. v. vittatus.*
b. Generally larger, more squamated on abdomen	*P. v. eisenhoferi.*
B. Chin and throat immaculate; breast squamated; moustachial streak very dark	*P. v. viridanus.*
C. Chin and throat boldly striped; moustachial streak absent or obsolete.	
c. Smaller, wing 110 to 130 mm.....	*P. v. myrmecophanes.*
d. Larger, wing 134 to 145 mm.	*P. v. dehræ.*

I have examined about sixty specimens of *P. v. myrmecophanes* and eighteen of *P. v. dehræ*, but I have been unable to see any of *Picus v. connectens* Rob. & Kloss, from Lanhaur Island.

Picus canus sanguiniceps, nom. nov.

It is unfortunately necessary to find a new name for *Picus occipitalis* Vigors, 1830, as this is preoccupied by Valenc. Dict. Sci. Nat. xl. p. 172, 1826, for the female of *Melanerpes cruentatus*.

Dryobates himalayensis albescens, subsp. nov.

Description. Sex for sex similar to *D. h. himalayensis*, but much paler below; the chin, throat, and breast are white or greyish-white and the whole lower surface is much less fulvous than it is in that bird.

Colours of soft parts and *measurements* as in the typical bird. Wing 77 to 85 mm.

Type in the British Museum: ♂, Goona, Kashmir, 24th June, 1876 (*ex* Hume coll.). Reg. No. 87.8.10.1.

Distribution. Kashmir, Gilgit, and North-East Afghanistan. Very numerous specimens of both forms examined.

Dryobates cabanisi stephensoni, subsp. nov.

Description. Differs from *D. c. cabanisi* in being much darker below, both the fulvous abdomen and crimson under tail-coverts being of a deeper tint.

Colours of soft parts and *measurements* as in the typical form.

Distribution. Yunnan, Shan States, Manipur, Cachar, and Chin Hills.

Type in the British Museum : ♂, Lichiang Range, N.W. Yunnan, Oct. 1918. G. Forrest. Reg. No. 1921.7.15.64. Named after Col. Stephenson Clark, who presented this and other collections to the British Museum.

Large series examined.

Dryobates analis longipennis Hesse.

Hesse, Orn. Monatsb. 1912, p. 82 [Bangkok].

Similar to *D. a. analis*, but with the ear-coverts and cheeks whiter, less fulvous, or brownish ; the malar streak is broader and more conspicuous and the breast is more boldly spotted with bigger rounder marks. On the whole, also the lower parts are less fulvous than they are in *D. a. analis*.

Colours of soft parts and *measurements* as in *analis*.

Distribution. Siam, Annam, Cochin China, Pyawbwe in Upper East Burma.

Examined about one hundred *D. a. analis* and eighteen *D. a. longipennis*.

Obs. This is a perfectly good race and will have to be maintained.

I wish also to draw attention to the names of the races of *Hypopicus hyperythrus* (Vigors) and to the type-locality of the species. In 1918 Hartert designated Darjeeling, Sikkim, as the type-locality of *Picus hyperythrus* Vigors. Ticehurst then points out, quite correctly, that the great majority of Vigors's specimens must have come from the North-West Himalayas, and he designates Simla–Almora Districts as the type-locality for all the specimens co lected by Vigors. But there are some birds in the collection which certainly did not come from the Simla–Almora Districts, such as the Bustard and *Trochalopterum variegatum*. Again, *Hypopicus hyperythrus* is an extremely common bird in Sikkim, and is

just the sort of bird which would have been sent to Vigors with the *Trochalopterum*. On the other hand, this Woodpecker is not common in the Simla–Almora Districts. Under the circumstances, I do not think the type-locality designated by Hartert can be discarded, and Ticehurst's name *H. h. sikkimensis* becomes a synonym of *H. h. hyperythrus* and *H. h. marshalli* stands for the western form. The same agreement applies to Hartert's designation of Nepal as the type-locality of *Trochalopterum lineatum*.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, in replying, said he could not agree with Mr. Stuart Baker's suggestions. All the evidence went to show that this collection was made by one man working in a definite area; the majority of these novelties *must* have come from the N.W. Himalayas, and thus the inference was that *all* came thence. As to the Bustard, that could have been easily obtained in those days in the Doon area on the collector's way up. As regards *Trochalopterum variegatum*, the figure in Gould's 'Century' showed that this specimen could not have come from E. Nepal, as there is figured a bird intermediate between *variegatum* and *simile*. The Woodpecker cited is not so rare as Mr. Baker supposes in the N.W. Himalayas, as I have several specimens thence. The description of Vigors's *C. lineatum* corresponds better with the western than the Sikkim bird.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear communicated the following new race of Woodpecker :—

Blythipicus pyrrhotis annamensis, subsp. nov.

Similar to *B. pyrrhotis hainanus*, but in both the ♂ and ♀ the back and underside are of a much darker brown.

Type in the British Museum : ♂, Langbian Peaks, S. Annam, 25th May, 1918. Collected by C. Boden Kloss. Reg. No. 1919.12.20.126.

♂, ♀, and immature ♀ examined.

The different forms of *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* are as follows :—

B. p. pyrrhotis Hodgson. *Type* in British Museum from Nepal.

The red nuchal collar in the ♂ of this race extends right across the nape, is greatly developed, and of a brilliant tint. Both in the ♂ and ♀ the upper and under sides have a strong rufous tinge.

Measurements : 6 ♂ ♂, wing 146–160 mm., bill from base of skull 52–56. 6 ♀ ♀, wing 145–147 mm., bill from base of skull 51–53.

Distribution. Nepal to Assam and Burma (from which last country there are specimens in the National Collection), from Kauri Kachin District, S. Shan States, Tonghoo, and Karen-nee south to Mooleyit.

There is also a single immature ♂ from Perak collected by L. Wray.

B. p. sinensis Rickett. *Type* in British Museum from Kuatum.

In this race the red on the nape of the ♂ is restricted to two patches on either side of the neck and is less brilliant. The rufous tinge is absent in both sexes, the underside is paler than in the typical form and more of an earth-brown colour.

Measurements : 6 ♂ ♂, wing 145–155 mm., bill from base of skull 43–46. 6 ♀ ♀, wing 146–149 mm., bill from base of skull 42–44.

Distribution. The Province of Fohkien, S. China.

B. p. hainanus Ogilvie-Grant. *Type* in British Museum from Five Finger Mts., Hainan.

The nuchal collar of the ♂ is intermediate between the typical race and *sinensis*. The colour of the back in both sexes is darker than in *sinensis*, while the underside approaches that of *p. pyrrhotis* but not so dark.

Measurements : 2 ♂ ♂, wing 137–147 mm., bill from base of skull 43–44. 1 ♀, wing ? mm., bill from base of skull 42·5.

Distribution. Hainan.

B. p. annamensis. See *antea.*

This is the darkest race of all. In the single ♂ the red on the nape is in the form of two patches as in *sinensis*, but nearer that of *B. p. pyrrhotis* as regards the tint. In both sexes the underside is blackish-brown, much darker than in any of the other races.

Measurements: 1 ♂, wing 148 mm., bill 45. 1 ♀, wing 150 mm., bill 42·5.

Distribution. S. Annam.

Mr. Geoffrey Pye-Smith, introduced by the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, exhibited a clutch of three eggs of the Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*) taken by himself at Mildenhall, near Marlborough, Wiltshire, on May 8th, 1907. The nest was typical of the *Hippolais* group, with bits of birch bark on the outside, in an alder about 4 ft. from the ground, and is now in the Marlborough College Museum. Although the Icterine Warbler has occurred previously in the British Isles, it has never been recorded as nesting there. An egg of the Melodious Warbler was exhibited at the same time, in order to show the differences between the eggs of the two species.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain remarked that in the cases where some species of *Hippolais* had been found breeding in England, the identification rested solely with the eggs, and it was satisfactory that in this case the eggs were typical Icterines, being distinctly larger and paler in colour than those of the Melodious Warbler.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited a series of fourteen clutches of four, and two of five, of the Tawny Pipit, *Anthus campestris*, from Albania, Germany, and Turkestan, and made the following remarks:—"In fairness to Mr. Jourdain and myself, I wish to somewhat modify the remarks I made

about the clutch of Tawny Pipit from Sussex, exhibited by Mr. Jourdain at the last meeting on Jan. 13th (*cf.* 'Bulletin,' No. ccci. pp. 55 & 56).

"I said that the eggs exhibited appeared to me to be too large for *A. campestris* eggs, but I found on reference to the series exhibited that on the average *Motacilla lugubris* eggs (which the Sussex clutch reminded me of) were smaller and lighter than those of *campestris*.

"*M. lugubris.*	*A. campestris.*
64 eggs.	40 eggs.
Measurements (*Rey*).	
20·2 × 15·2 mm.	21·17 × 15·74 mm.
Weights (*Rey*).	
137 mg.	158 mg."

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited a remarkably fine series of the eggs of the Wood-Warbler, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, embracing practically every known form and variety, and described the following clutches :—

C/6, Surrey, a very distinctive form, with rather heavy angular markings instead of the typical roundish marks, with large conspicuous underlying markings.

C/6, Middleton, Teesdale, very unusual form, finely stippled, resembling those of *Motacilla alba* and *Locustella nævia*, distinctly greyish in appearance, caused by abundance of minute underlying marks.

C/6, Germany, a pale reddish-brown clutch, with one very remarkable egg with suffused reddish-brown pigment covering practically the whole surface with the exception of a sharply-defined patch at the large end, on which there are only a few of the typical minute markings.

C/6, England, from the late Sir Vauncey Harpur Crewe collection, a unique clutch, with heavy black-brown sharply-defined zones round the large ends, measuring in depth 4 mm.; the lower portions of the eggs are very sparingly marked.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following :—

Pagodroma nivea falklandica, new name for *P. n. novegeorgica* Mathews, Birds Australia, vol. ii. p. 177, July 31st, 1912 (preoccupied as synonym of *nivea* Forster).

Puffinus carneipes zealandicus, new name for *P. c. carbonarius* Mathews, ib. p. 90, 1912 (preoccupied by Bonaparte, 1856, as synonym of *aterrima* Verr.).

And Messrs. Iredale and Mathews send the following descriptions of new genera :—

Zecoturnix, gen. nov. Type *Coturnix novæzealandiæ* Quoy et Gaimard. The wing is reduced to almost the same formula as in *Ypsilophorus* Mathews.

Stictapteryx, gen. nov. Type *Apteryx owenii* Gould. Internal features of generic value have been cited, as well as the external ones, and also variations in ptilosis.

Hyporallus, gen. nov. Type *Rallus muelleri*. Differs from *Rallus* in the reduction of the wings and the strengthening of the legs, similar to that seen in *Nesolimnas* and *Nesophylax*.

Xenicornis, gen. nov. Type *Xenicus gilviventris* Pelz. This will replace *Xenicus* Gray, Cat. Gen. Subgen. Birds, 1855, p. 31, not *Xenica* Westwood, Gen. Diurn. Lep. vol. iii. p. 387, 1851.

Bulleria, gen. nov. Type *Platycercus unicolor* Lear. Differs from *Cyanoramphus* in its larger size, reduced wing, and stout legs, exactly as *Stringops* is related to *Pezoporus*.

Botaurus poiciloptilus maorianus, name nov. for *Botaurus melanotus* Gray in Dieffenbach's 'Travels in New Zealand,' vol. ii. p. 196, 1843, not of Brehm, Isis, 1842, cols. 771, 779, 781.

BRITISH MUSEUM
NATURAL HISTORY

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, 10th March, 1926, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m. Members are reminded that this Dinner is held conjointly with the Annual Dinner of the B.O.U., and that they are allowed to bring Lady Guests.

The Meeting will be devoted principally to the exhibition of lantern-slides and photographs, and the Hon. Secretary will be pleased to hear from any Members who have slides, etc., to exhibit, so that their names may be included in the Agenda.

The following programme has been provisionally arranged:—

1. Mr. Oliver G. Pike : A Bird-film.
2. Mr. Seton Gordon : Photographs of Golden Eagles.
3. Mr. W. Shore Baily : Various Waders with Nests and Eggs.
4. Mr. W. E. Glegg : Photographs of Birds in the Camargue.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1., in order that the necessary seating arrangements may be made. Failure to do so may result in no seat being available, as the accommodation has to be arranged beforehand.

There are still several Members who have not paid their Subscription for 1925–1926—£1 1s. 0d. The Treasurer will be obliged if they will send this at once.

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* N. B. Kinnear, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

-6 APR 1926
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCIV.

The three-hundredth Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48, Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, March 10th, 1926, in conjunction with the Annual Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Lord Rothschild, the President of the B. O. U., took the Chair during the Dinner ; and
Mr. H. F. Witherby during the subsequent proceedings.

Members of the B. O. C. present :—L. Ardern ; C. E. Baker ; E. C. Stuart Baker ; W. Shore Baily ; F. J. F. Barrington ; S. Boorman ; H. B. Booth ; C. D. Borrer ; P. F. Bunyard ; A. L. Butler ; E. P. Chance ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke ; N. Coltart ; Sir Percy Z. Cox ; Col. H. Delmé-Radcliffe ; A. Ezra ; J. M. Fleming ; Major S. S. Flower ; Hon. M. Hachisuka ; Rev. J. R. Hale ; Dr. E. Hartert ; J. M. Jopling ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*) ; G. C. Lambert ; Dr. P. R. Lowe ; N. S. Lucas ; J. M. D. Mackenzie ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; J. H.

McNeile; H. A. Magrath; G. Mannering; G. M. Mathews; E. G. B. Meade-Waldo; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; C. E. Pearson; H. L. Popham; A. N. T. Rankin; F. R. Ratcliff; R. H. Read; Lord Rothschild; C. H. Roper; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; A. G. L. Sladen; H. S. Stokes; Mrs. R. Haig Thomas; W. H. Thorpe; B. W. Tucker; Miss E. L. Turner; L. J. Turtle; G. de Vaizey; J. Sladen Wing; H. F. Witherby; C. de Worms.

Members of the B. O. U.:—J. R. Bertram-Jones; E. Bidwell; R. Chislett; Capt. R. E. Davies; J. S. Dyson; H. S. Gladstone; W. E. Glegg; Miss E. M. Godman; Seton P. Gordon; Surg.-Comm. K. H. Jones; Capt. J. N. Kennedy; Miss E. M. Knobel; Mrs. M. L. Lemon; S. Lewis; Mrs. A. H. Murton; O. G. Pike; J. S. Reeve; C. W. Smeed; J. Stewart; Lord Tavistock; A. L. Tavistock; A. L. Thomson; E. Valpy; W. B. I. Webber; T. Wells.

Guests:—Mrs. L. Ardern: Mrs. Shore Baily; Mrs. E. C. Stuart Baker; Miss Stuart Baker; Mrs. J. W. Bertram-Jones; Capt. A. B. Bratten; Miss Chatterton; Mrs. R. A. Davis; Mrs. Delmé-Radcliffe; Mrs. A. Ezra; Mrs. S. Flower; Mrs. H. Gladstone; Miss C. E. Godman; Mrs. Seton Gordon; Miss F. G. Griffith; Brig.-Gen. Haig; Mrs. E. Hartert; R. E. Heath; C. La Touche; A. L. Lemon; Mrs. Spedan Lewis; Mrs. P. R. Lowe; Mrs. N. S. Lucas; Mrs. J. M. Mackenzie; Mrs. Mackworth-Praed; Miss Mathews; Dr. Oscar Neumann; Mrs. Oliver Pike; Mrs. W. L. Sclater; Mrs. D. Seth-Smith; D. W. Seth-Smith; Mrs. A. G. L. Sladen; Lady Tavistock; Mrs. A. L. Thomson; Mrs. B. W. Tucker; Mrs. E. Valpy; Mrs. W. B. Webber; Duchess of Wellington; Mrs. Sladen Wing; Mrs. H. F. Witherby; and 28 others.

The Annual Dinner of the B. O. U., held in conjunction with the B. O. C., was the largest yet held, a total of 151 members of the Union, Club, and guests attending.

This meeting, it is interesting to note, is the 300th gathering of the Club.

Mr. Oliver G. Pike, who again kindly lent and worked his lantern, started the evening with an interesting cinema-film of St. Kilda and its Bird-Life—Fulmars, Puffins, etc. This was followed by another film of Ailsa Craig, principally showing Gannets in different stages from the egg to the adult. The pictures of the half-grown Gannet and the adults in "slow motion" were greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Seton Gordon exhibited several slides of two young Golden Eagles being fed in the nest by their parents, and afterwards an interesting film of the same birds and nest which had not been previously exhibited.

Mr. Shore Bailey showed a large number of photos of birds in his aviaries, principally Waders and Rails. Many of the latter, though not uncommon in the Tropics, are very rarely seen in this country, but have been most successfully kept and in some cases bred by him.

Lord Rothschild exhibited a photograph of an extinct bird from the Sandwich Islands which he recently described in the 'Bulletin,' together with several coloured slides of faked bird-skins, *i. e.* skins with the head of one species on the body of another, which a native collector had imposed on a European collector in West Africa.

Mr. Chislett showed a number of very good photos taken on the island of Öland, including a fine series of pictures of the Turnstone, as well as a few of the Black Tern, White- and Blue-headed Wagtails.

Mr. W. E. Glegg brought a number of slides made from photos taken in the Camargue, which he again visited this spring. Among these were some interesting pictures of the Kentish Plover, Stilt, and Little Tern.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear communicated the following description of a new Parrot :—

Aratinga whitleyi, sp. nov.

Head, neck, back, and wing-coverts grass-green with a yellowish tinge ; forehead flame-coloured, turning to yellow posteriorly. Rump saffron-yellow with a greenish tinge ; upper side of tail with outer webs of feathers verditer-blue edged with black, inner webs green tinged with bluish, under side of tail black. Primaries blue ; secondaries with outer webs green, inner blue ; under wing-coverts greenish-yellow. Throat and neck smoky-green ; abdomen orange, turning to flame-colour in the middle ; thighs greenish-yellow, with a flame-coloured patch just above the tarsus.

Iris greyish-brown ; naked skin round the eye pearl-grey ; tarsus and feet flesh-colour.

Type. A live bird in the collection of Mr. Whitley, which probably came from South America.

Measurements. Total length 408 mm., wing 216.

Note.—This bird was purchased by Mr. Whitley, who has kindly allowed me to describe it, from Mr. Chapman, Animal and Bird Importer, of Tottenham Court Road. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to trace where the bird came from.

In general coloration this species is nearest to *Leptositta branickii*, but differs principally in having a much smaller area of naked skin round the eye, absence of yellow eye-stripe, patches of red on the thighs, in the colour of the throat and neck, and larger size. *L. branickii* was figured in 'The Ibis,' 1894, pl. xi., and a plate of the present species will appear shortly in the 'Avicultural Magazine.'

Col. and Mrs. MEINERTZHAGEN forwarded the descriptions of six new races of birds from India and the Himalayas :—

Salpornis spilonotus rajputanæ, subsp. nov.

Birds from Rajputana have less heavily marked underparts, while the whole of the upper parts from the crown to tail is greyer, the darker markings being of not so intense a black as in typical specimens and the ground-colour pale hair-brown instead of dark hair-brown.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Sambhur, 2. vi. 1873. *Ex* Hume Collection. Reg. No. 86.11.1.1742.

Distribution. Rajputana.

Material examined. Five birds from Ajmere and Sambhur and one from Nasirabad in Rajputana, and twenty-seven from Raipur, Khandesh, Sambalpur, Seonee, Behar, and the Central Provinces.

Carpodacus rubicilloides lucifer, subsp. nov.

Differs from birds from Kansu in being slightly darker above, the crimson on the head and lower parts of the males of a more intense colour, which serves to accentuate the white shaft-streaks.

Type in the British Museum. ♂, Chusha, Southern Tibet, 13,800′, 18.vi.21. Collected by Wollaston on the first Mt. Everest Expedition. Reg. No. 1922.12.31.216.

Distribution. Southern Tibet.

Material examined. Two from Khambajong, Southern Tibet, and Southern Tibet north of Mt. Everest ; also eight birds from Kansu.

Carpodacus rubicilloides lapersonnei, subsp. nov.

Males from Ladak and Gyangtse compared with typical birds are generally paler above and below, the upper parts not washed with such a deep crimson and the underparts of a paler and more delicate rose-colour. Females are generally paler.

Measurements. Wings of six males 110–113 mm.

Type in the Tring Museum: ♂, Shushal, Eastern Ladak (12,000′). 11.vi.1925.

Material examined. Ten from Ladak, two from Gyangtse, Southern Tibet, six from Kansu and Koko Nor.

Note.—There are also two birds in the British Museum, neither of which agree with any described race:—

(*a*) A male labelled "Kashgar" (not original). It is even paler above and below than *C. r. lapersonnei*. It probably belongs to a pale Turkestan race. Wing 110 mm.

(*b*) A male labelled "Ladak" (not original). The bird in all likelihood never came from Ladak. It is in slightly worn plumage and must have been obtained in summer or spring. Though the upper parts agree with those of *C. r. lapersonnei*, the underparts are strikingly brilliant in marked contrast to the delicate rose of that race. Wing 112 mm.

(*c*) A female in the Tring Museum from the Lichiang Range, N.W. Yunnan (11,000–13,000′), obtained on 28.xi., is darker above than Kansu birds (wing 101 mm.) and possibly constitutes yet another form.

Eremophila alpestris deosai, subsp. nov.

These Larks were abundant on the Deosai Plateau between Baltistan and Kashmir. Five males have wings 127-131 mm. and true culmens of 18–20, whilst one female has a true culmen of 18, the wing being in moult. All birds are moulting, some nearing completion. Four males in very worn plumage in the British Museum (July) have wings 126–133 and true culmens of 18·5 mm. Deosai birds therefore run as large as "*longirostris*."

All my birds were obtained between the 22nd and 24th August, and are in moult, some nearing completion. But it is apparent that they are darker and browner in fresh plumage than either "*longirostris*" or Ladak birds. They have a distinct white gap between the black of the throat and the black of the cheeks, which separates them at once from "*diluta*" from Turkestan or "*albigula*" of Gilgit. *E. a. deosai* are, moreover, ever so much darker than either of these pale races.

Young were well on the wing at the end of August.

There are in the British Museum five males (May) from Burzil Pass (Kashmir–Gilgit Road), whose wings measure 128–130 and true culmens 18–19 mm. They have nothing to do with Deosai birds and seem to be nearest to Ladak birds.

Type in the Tring Museum: ♂, Deosai Plateau, 13,200′, 24.viii.1925.

The Eastern Redshank.

Oberholser (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxii. 1900, p. 207) described a breeding Redshank from the Tso Moriri Lake in Ladak as *Totanus t. eurhinus*, stating that it was like "true *Totanus totanus*, but very much larger." He gives the wings and exposed culmens of four Ladak birds as 160–170 mm. and 44–51 mm. respectively, as against the wings and exposed culmens of five French birds as 150–158 mm. and 39–46 mm. respectively.

An examination of seven breeding birds from Ladak, recently obtained by one of the authors, shows that though Ladak birds average larger, measurements overlap. These seven birds have wings 157–166 mm. and exposed culmens of 42–48 mm. Twenty-four examples of *Tringa t. totanus* from Western Europe have wings 152–162 mm. and exposed culmens of 38·5–45·5 mm.

In colour, breeding birds from Ladak do not differ in the slightest degree from *Tringa t. totanus* from Western Europe. The acceptance of "*eurhinus*" on measurement alone is a matter of doubt.

But, in examining the large series of Redshank at Tring, in the British Museum, and our own collections, it is apparent that there is an eastern form of Redshank differing considerably in coloration (in both winter and summer) from the above races. We propose for this race the name:—

Tringa totanus terrignotæ, subsp. nov.

The upper parts are generally more rufous and paler than in *T. t. totanus* in summer plumage, whilst the lower parts are usually less heavily streaked.

In winter plumage, the upper parts are paler and greyer than in *Tringa t. totanus*; below whiter, with fewer and narrower streaks; sides of breast whiter and largely lacking

the ash-brown clouding so distinctive in the winter plumage of European birds; sides of body and flanks white, only faintly barred; under tail-coverts with fewer and narrower bars.

The juvenile plumage is apparently indistinguishable, though tending to have the lower neck and upper breast less streaked.

Measurements. Of fifty birds examined in breeding and winter plumage the wings are 145 (once), 148 (once), 151–169, exposed culmen 40–47, true culmen 46–53 mm.

Type in the British Museum: ♀, Kuku Nor (April). Reg. No. 96.7.1.880.

Distribution. Birds in summer plumage examined from Tian Shan (September), Kuku Nor (April), two from Mongolia (June and July), Amur Bay (May), Rangoon (February), twelve from the Chinese Coast (March to July), Labuan (August), five from India (April and May).

Birds in winter plumage examined from China, the Philippines, Borneo, Malay Peninsula, Tenasserim, Siam, Burma, India, and Baluchistan. Two from Fao (no date), one from Southern Kurdestan (December), one from Southern Iraq (no date), five from Aden (September and January), one from Sokotra (December).

Perdix hodgsoniæ caraganæ, subsp. nov.

Ladak birds are generally paler above, especially the chestnut nuchal collar. The dark brown markings on the upper parts of *P. h. hodgsoniæ* are replaced by chestnut markings in Ladak birds, though this is not invariable. In size they do not differ from *P. h. hodgsoniæ*.

Type in the Tring Museum: ♂, Shushal, 15,000′. Eastern Ladak, 13.vi.25.

Distribution. Shores of Pangkong Lake to Rupshu and Hanle. Is confined to the valleys where the Tibetan Gorse (*Caragana*) grows.

Material examined. Eleven from Eastern Ladak, twenty from Southern Tibet (Gyangtse, Khambajong), four from E. and S.E. Tibet (*sifanica*).

Col. and Mrs. Meinertzhagen also sent the following notes :—

Mycerobas carnipes.

An examination of the large series of this bird in the British Museum discloses the fact that western birds differ from Sikkim specimens. The black on the plumage of the latter is denser and the mustard colour of a deeper tint, both above and below.

Birds from N. Persia, Turkestan, Gilgit, Afghanistan, Beluchistan, and the Himalayas east to at least Dharmsala must be known as :—

Mycerobas carnipes speculigera.

Coccothraustes speculigerus Brandt, Bull. Sci. Acad. St. Petersb. ix. p. 11 (1842).

Described from a bird obtained in North Persia.

In Bull. B. O. C. xlv. p. 90, Dr. Hartert renamed his *Oriolus meridionalis*, *Oriolus chinensis macassariensis*. It was therefore quite unnecessary for Mr. Mathews to give yet another new name to the same bird and for precisely the same reason that prompted Dr. Hartert's new name. Mathews's *Broderipus chinensis rileyi* (Bull. B. O. C. xlv. p. 114) is therefore consigned to redundant synonymy.

Mr. G. L. Bates sent the following remarks, with descriptions of seven

New Birds from the Mountains of N.W. Cameroon.

Mr. Bannerman described, from my former collections, a dozen new races of birds from the elevated region of N.W. Cameroon, mostly found on the large mass of high country called the Banso Mountains. It is noticeable that these races nearly all differed from their nearest allies in the same manner, by being darker in colour and often slightly larger. I have now found other peculiar forms in the same general region, some of them differing from their nearest allies in the same way. On this last trip I collected in a district somewhat higher above sea-level than those I visited before,

the district called Oku (the seat of an interesting native iron industry), a little west of Kumbo, and really a part of the Banso Mountains and near the highest part. This district yielded most of the novelties described below, including some which proved, to my surprise, to be distinct from those found before about Kumbo.

This mountain region is certainly a remarkable workshop of nature, as it were, for the making of peculiar forms of birds. These remarkable birds live mostly in the dark wooded ravines, a peculiar wild and sombre kind of place, with crooked trees growing among the rocks, all completely clothed with dark-coloured moss. This district is, of course, not so high as the Cameroon Mountain, but it is of greater extent, and more ancient, since there are no volcanoes still active, while that of the Cameroon Mountain is still active.

I have to thank Mr. Kinnear and Mr. Wells, of the bird-room at the Museum, for their help in describing these birds; and the description of the *Cisticola* is on the authority of Admiral Lynes, who asked me to describe it. Instead of doing so under his name, I do it along with the rest as my own, but recognize his part in the matter by giving this interesting little bird his name.

The types of these new forms are to remain at the British Museum (Natural History).

Laniarius atroflavus craterum, subsp. nov.

Adult male and female. Five birds of both sexes differ from *Laniarius atroflavus*, described from the Cameroon Mountain, in the colour of the underside and in size. While the yellow of the underparts in typical *L. atroflavus* is pure and bright, in the birds here described it is of a dusky tint, as if dirty, the same exactly in my five adult specimens, all in fresh and new plumage, not really at all dirty. The throat also, which in both forms is lighter than the other underparts, is in typical *atroflavus* clear light yellow, and in the new form light yellow with a greenish tinge.

Measurements. Wing, three males, 87, 90, 89—two females,

90, 87 ; tail (of all) 77–81 ; tarsus 31–32 ; culmen 18–19 mm. The wings in *L. a. atroflavus* from Cameroon Mountain measure 80–86 mm. (7 measured).

Type : ♂, Oku, west of Kumbo, Cameroon, 11th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8246.

My two specimens formerly obtained at Genderu, much further north, agree best with the Cameroon Mountain form, though one of them is large, having a wing of 91 mm.

One specimen of *L. a. craterum* was obtained near Bambulue Lake, at an altitude of over 600 feet (and others were seen and heard there) ; the rest were shot in the ravines about Oku, at the same altitude—all in February 1925. The Oku ravines are connected with another larger crater-lake called Lake Malwe. These yellow-bellied birds were to be seen, by glimpses only, among the dark moss-covered and gnarled trees of these woods. They might be heard more frequently, for their cries were loud and startling—a peculiar whistling, or rather *swishing,* note, whch appears as if each cry were followed by a quick echo. One of my specimens was a female that had laid two eggs within two or three days, and had no more to lay, as was shown by dissection.

Andropadus concolor, sp. nov.

Adult male. The whole plumage may be described as olive-green, all the upper parts of uniform shade, the underparts lighter, and the throat and the middle of the belly lightest and a little tinged with yellowish. The general colour of the plumage is like that of *Andropadus tephrolæmus bamendæ* except the head, which in the latter bird is grey ; the size and build of the two birds are much the same ; but my specimen, here described as a new species, has somewhat coarser rictal bristles, and a little more slender and pointed bill, with a small but distinct hook at the tip of the upper mandible.

Iris hazel; feet grey; bill black.

Measurements. Wing 87, tail 82, tarsus 23, culmen 16 mm.

Type: ♂, Lake Bambulue, near Bamenda, 2nd Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8200.

A single male (with large testes) shot in February in the wood bordering Lake Bambulue, a crater-lake half-a-mile in diameter, situated on the heights above Bamenda, at an altitude of between 6000 and 7000 feet, and distant some 8 miles from Bamenda.

Cisticola ayresii lynesi, subsp. nov.

Adult male in summer plumage. Much darker throughout than in the typical *C. ayresii* of S. Africa or its N.E. African representative, *C. a. habessinica* ; top of head and nape dull rust-brown, nearly spotless ; feathers of mantle edged with umber-brown, with little of the lighter tints found in the other races.

Measurements of the three birds (all ♂ ad.). Wing 53, 53, 52 ; tail 30, 30, 28 ; tarsus 22, 21, 21 ; culmen 10, 9·5, 10·5 mm.

Type : ♂, Oku, west of Kumbo, Cameroon, 12th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8250.

These three birds were all shot in the Oku district, in February 1925—not, of course, in the wooded parts, but on grassy slopes near villages. Others were heard and seen in the same district, and also once at Santa, near Bamenda, a place with similar situation and altitude (at least 6000 ft.). They always first attracted attention by the sounds they made in the air while flying. These I have described in my note-book " as a series of clicks with something of a buzzing quality in the tone." Though doubtless made with the voice, these clicks sound so sharp and mechanical as to seem to be made with the wings. They are made while the little bird, almost too small to be seen in the air, flies about overhead with an irregular, jerky, nervous flight ; then, after a little time, it drops down to a grass-stalk near the ground.

Alseonax minimus okuensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male and female. Upperside of a shade darker grey-brown than *A. m. kumboensis* ; no light loral spot (a

brownish-white loral spot is present in *A. m. kumboensis*); whole underside dusky except a little white on the throat and on the middle of the belly, and not at all buff or yellowish. This absence of any yellowish tinge from the underparts is a distinguishing mark from both *Alseonax minimus kumboensis* and *A. m. obscurus* of the Cameroon Mountain. In fact, this new race is more distinct from those two than those are from each other.

Iris dark brown; feet brownish-black; bill black, but base of the lower mandible light horn-colour.

Measurements. Wing, two males, 66, 67·5—two females, 64, 65; tail (of all) 47–50; tarsus (of all) 13–14; culmen of all) 10–10·5 mm.

Type: ♂, Oku, W. of Kumbo, Cameroon, 7th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8217.

Four specimens obtained in February 1925 in the wooded ravines about Oku, at altitudes of 6000–6500 feet. They were in new plumage, and were sometimes seen in pairs; and this, with the state of the sex-organs, seemed to indicate a breeding-season already begun.

It seems very strange to find a distinct race of these little Flycatchers within less than twenty miles of the place where *Alseonax m. kumboensis* was discovered. But the altitude was still higher at Oku; and these wooded ravines on the different heights are isolated, and do not form one continuous network of woodland.

Platysteira laticincta, sp. nov.

Adult male. Like *P. peltata* in having no white wing-bar; all the upper parts deep glossy blue-black, except a little greyish-black on the rump; tail-feathers with minute white tips; the broad pectoral band of the same blue-black colour as the upper parts; under wing-coverts white, except those nearest the edge of the wing, which are black; remaining underparts white. The broad pectoral band distinguishes this bird from the males of all forms of *Platysteira peltata*, being much wider than in any of them; at its narrowest

place, in the middle, it is 13 mm. wide, while at the sides, opposite the bend of the folded wing, it is 25 mm. wide.

Iris apparently blue; feet purplish-black; eye-wattle light red.

Measurements. Wing 67; tail 54; tarsus 19; culmen 13·5 mm.

Type: ♂, Oku, W. of Kumbo, Cameroon, 8th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8226.

A single specimen obtained at Oku (west of Kumbo) in one of the forested ravines, at an altitude of 6000 feet or more.

Campethera wellsi, sp. nov.

Adult female. A single female Woodpecker closely agrees with the description of *C. tullbergi*, of Cameroon Mountain, in the colours of the top of the head and upper parts generally—golden olive-green back and wings, a red patch at the bend of the wing, black top of head with small whitish spots, and red back of head; but differs widely in the ground-colour of the underparts, though agreeing in being covered with dusky greenish speckles and spots on the underparts. While in *C. tullbergi* the ground-colour of the whole underside is yellow, in this bird there is no clear yellow at all on the underside; the ground-colour of the throat and the sides of the head is smoky grey, and that of the breast and belly is a pale dingy greenish-yellow. The crop-feathers have the small spots and speckles tending to run together to form fine cross-bars, and the breast is more densely and heavily spotted than in *C. tullbergi*, the spots becoming cross-bars both on the flank-feathers and on the under tail-coverts. This bird has the long bill and hard bones of an adult bird, and in the ovary were found small eggs beginning to form. It differs so much from *C. tullbergi* that I describe it as a separate species, especially as another very different bird found not far away seems to be the representative of *C. tullbergi*.

Measurements (one female). Wing 117 ; tail 72 ; tarsus 21 ; culmen 25 mm.

Type : ♀, Oku, W. of Kumbo, Cameroon, 9th Feb., 1925. G. L. Bates coll. No. 8233.

Shot (with native bow) near Oku—altitude 6000 feet or over.

Campethera tullbergi bansoensis, subsp. nov.

Adult male. The specimen collected in the Banso Mountains in September 1922 (see 'Ibis,' 1924, pp. 17, 220) differs also from the two male specimens of *C. tullbergi* collected by Boyd Alexander on the Cameroon Mountain in the following particulars:—It is of a brighter bronze-green above ; the underside has the ground-colour of a duller and darker shade of yellow than in typical *C. tullbergi* ; the dusky green speckling of the sides of the head, throat, and crop is denser, and the speckles on the crop-feathers tend to run together into fine cross-bars ; the under tail-coverts are cross-barred (in the specimens of *C. t. tullbergi* they merely have round spots).

Measurements (one male). Wing 116 ; (tail in moult) ; culmen 24·5 mm.

Type : ♂, Banso Mountains, N. of Kumbo, Cameroon, 13th Sept., 1922. G. L. Bates coll. No. 6894. Reg. No. 1923. 10.26.112.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews sent the following :—

For **Puffinus carneipes zealandicus** in last number, p. 76, read **Puffinus carneipes neozealandicus**, as I find *zealandicus* preoccupied.

Galeocephala, new name for *Megacephalon* Gray, 1846, as used in the Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. vol. xxii. p. 471, 1893.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, 14th April, 1926, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the Meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* N. B. Kinnear, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

- 6 APR 1926 PURCHASED
BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY ZOOLOGY

Bird Room

25 MAY 1926
PURCHASED
BRITISH MUSEUM

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCV.

The three-hundred-and-first Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, April 14th, 1926.

Chairman: H. F. Witherby.

Members present:—W. Shore Baily; E. C. Stuart Baker; F. J. F. Barrington; George L. Bates; P. F. Bunyard; Col. Stephenson R. Clarke; Sir Percy Z. Cox; A. H. Evans; Major S. S. Flower; Hon. M. Hachisuka; Rev. J. R. Hale; Dr. E. Hartert; J. M. Jopling; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*); J. Spedan Lewis; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*); N. S. Lucas; C. W. Mackworth-Praed; Dr. P. H. Manson-Bahr; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; Mrs. Meinertzhagen; T. H. Newman; C. Oldham; F. R. Ratcliff; C. B. Rickett; B. J. Ringrose; Lord Rothschild; W. L. Sclater; D. Seth-Smith; A. G. L. Sladen; Dr. C. B. Ticehurst; J. Sladen Wing.

Visitors:—J. P. R. Hale; W. H. Hale; W. W. James; T. Okanioto; H. W. B. Wright.

The Chairman referred with deep regret, which he knew would be shared by the members of the Club, to the death that morning of Mr. H. Kirke Swann. Mr. Swann was in the midst of his great work on the Birds of Prey ; he had done much valuable bibliographic work, and his loss would be deplored by all ornithologists.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear exhibited three chicks of the Ibis-bill *Ibidorhynchus struthersi*, on behalf of Mr. F. Ludlow, who obtained them at Gyantse, Southern Tibet, in 1925. In 1922 Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, at the December meeting of the Club, exhibited a similar chick, obtained by Mr. H. Whistler in Lahore, but as the specimen was unfortunately a very poor one it was not possible to be quite certain of the coloration. The new specimens, however, confirm Dr. Ticehurst's original description.

Col. and Mrs. R. Meinertzhagen exhibited and described the following new forms of birds from the Himalayas and Kashmir :—

Acanthis flavirostris ladacensis, subsp. nov.

Ladak birds are the thick-billed type as *rufostrigata*, but differ from that race in fresh plumage in having the upper plumage not so red. In worn plumage Ladak birds are scarcely separable from *rufostrigata*.

From *montanella* they differ not only in having a coarser bill, but in having a richer and redder back.

Suschkin, in a recent review of the species, unites Ladak birds with *rufostrigata*, but he had probably not seen birds in fresh plumage.

Yarkand (winter) birds agree best with *montanella*.

Type in the British Museum. No sex. Leh, 4. ix. 1873 (*Stoliczka*). Reg. No. 91.7.22.282.

Distribution. Ladak, between 10,000′ and 15,000′ in summer.

Material examined. Thirty-two birds from Southern Tibet and Northern Sikkim (*A. f. rufostrigata*); twenty-seven from Gilgit (*A. f. montanella*) ; twenty-four from Ladak.

Acanthis flavirostris baltistanicus, subsp. nov.

A small flock of Twites was seen near Skardu in Baltistan on 19. viii. 1925, and struck me at once as not being nearly so rufous as Ladak birds. One bird only was secured. It proves to have the fine bill of *montanella*, from which it also differs in not being so grey. From *A. f. ladacensis* it differs in not being so red. The whole flock, which was under observation for some time at close range, seemed identical in colour.

Type (temporarily in our collection) : ♂ ad. Sanpur, near Skardu, 11,500′, 19. viii. 1925.

Distribution. Only so far known from the type-locality.

Parus monticolus lepcharum, subsp. nov.

Sikkim birds have a darker green back and brighter yellow underparts than Simla birds. The grey of the lower back is usually darker. The Sikkim birds also tend to have less white on the outer web of the 3rd primary than is usual among Central Himalayan birds. Yunnan birds are, of course, a much darker green above. *Parus m. insperatus* (Formosa) has more brightly defined fringes and tips to the wing-coverts and secondaries.

Type in the Tring Museum : ♂, Gangtok, 5600′, Sikkim, 15. xii. 1925.

Distribution. Common throughout Sikkim and Eastern Nepal, between 4000′ and 8800′, in winter.

Material examined. Forty-six birds from Simla, Chakrata, Naini Tal, and the Central Himalayas, whence came the type of *Parus monticolus*. Thirty birds examined from Sikkim and nineteen from Yunnan.

Regulus regulus sikkimensis, subsp. nov.

Sikkim birds are darker than Kashmir and Simla birds in every respect, and not so dark as Yunnan birds (*R. r. yunnanensis*). A very few Yunnan birds are indistinguishable from Sikkim specimens.

Blyth's type of *Regulus himalayensis* in all probability came from Simla.

Type in the British Museum : ♂, Native Sikkim (Mandelli), Nov. 1876. Reg. No. 86.11.1.685.

Distribution. This race is apparently an uncommon bird in Sikkim and Nepal.

There is in the British Museum an adult male collected by Woosman on the South Coast of the Caspian on 24.2.07, which agrees best with *R. r. himalayensis*, though very slightly darker above, with less lemon-colour on the rump and more smoky-colour on the underparts. It probably constitutes an undescribed race, being quite distinct from *R. r. tristis* from Turkestan.

Material examined. Fourteen birds from Gilgit, two from Astor, five from Kashmir, eight from Simla, and fourteen from Sikkim. Over forty examined from Yunnan.

Turdus merula buddæ, subsp. nov.

Differs from *T. m. maxima* only in the smaller bill.

				Wing.	True culmen.
imm. ♂. Type of *maxima*.	Gulmarg.	Aug.	154	26
♂.	Kashmir.	June.	159	28
♀.	Kagan Valley.	June.	155	27
imm. ♀.	Gulmarg.	Sept.	149	25
♀.	Kashmir.	July.	moult.	28
2 ♀♀.	Kagan Valley.	June.	153, 155	27
♀.	Kurram.	July.	155	27
♂. Type of *buddæ*.	Gyangtse.	Dec.	154	24
3 ♂♂.	Gyangtse.	Aug. & Dec.	150, 158, 160	24–26
♂.	Chumbi Valley.	Jan.	152	25
♂.	N. Sikkim.	Dec.	149	25
♀.	Gyangtse.	Dec.	153	24

Type in the British Museum : ♂, Gyangtse, Southern Tibet, 15. xii. 1925. (No. 196, *F. Ludlow.*) 14,000′.

Distribution. Southern Tibet and Alpine Sikkim. We obtained a male on 5. xii. 1925 at Yamtang, 14,700′, in North Sikkim, among snow and dwarf rhododendron.

Material examined. Eight birds from Kashmir, Kurram,

and the North-west Frontier Province of India (*T. m. maxima*, including the type, an immature ♂ from Gulmarg in Kashmir), seven from Gyangtse in Southern Tibet and Yamtang in Northern Sikkim. The Gyangtse birds were mainly collected by Ludlow.

Prunella rubeculoides muraria, subsp. nov.

Birds from Ladak are paler than Nepal and Sikkim specimens on the upper parts from forehead to upper tail-coverts and less richly coloured, the dark streaking on the mantle being blacker in eastern birds. Underparts are variable, the red breast being usually darker in Eastern birds. In worn plumage Ladak birds seem to show greater signs of abrasion and bleaching.

Type in the British Museum: ♂, Astor (*Biddulph*), 21. xi. 1876. Reg. No. 97.12.10.1123.

Distribution. Birds from Astor and Ladak are identical, also a single specimen from the hills north of Mussoorie.

P. r. rubeculoides occurs in apparently a constant form in Southern Tibet, Alpine Sikkim, and Nepal at great heights, and in Alpine Kansu and Szechwan.

Material examined :

	Autumn plumage.	Spring and winter plumage.
Ladak and Hills N. of Mussoorie, Astor	8	17
Sikkim and Nepal, including the type	7	19
Kansu and Szechwan	7	3
Southern Tibet	4	5

Tetraogallus tibetanus aquilonifer, subsp. nov.

Hitherto birds from North Sikkim have been considered identical with others from Kansu and North Tibet ; but the former, for which the above name is proposed, are darker (not so sandy) on the head, nape, and back than the latter. *T. tibetanus henrici* from Szechwan, which I have not seen, is said to be considerably darker, and in any case differs

from all other races by lacking the buff collar on the upper back.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. Interior of Sikkim, Oct. 1873. Reg. No. 89.5.10.1192.

Distribution. This race is apparently confined to Alpine Sikkim and Southern Tibet.

Material examined. The type of *T. tibetanus* from Ladak and six others from Ladak, all adult, obtained in May, June, and September; three adults (*Przewalski*) from Kansu and "North Tibet"; fifteen adults from North Sikkim and Southern Tibet.

Alauda arvensis lhamarum, subsp. nov.

Similar in size to *guttata*, and differing in being not so dark above (more fulvous) in fresh plumage. In worn plumage they are greyer above than Kashmir birds.

Birds from the Deosai Plateau (N. Kashmir) and Gilgit seem intermediate between Ladak and Vale of Kashmir birds.

A. a. inconspicua and *inopinata* are much greyer races.

Type in the British Museum: no sex. Ladak, 1870 (in fresh plumage). Collected by Henderson. Reg. No. 87.7.1.3254.

Distribution. Throughout Western and Central Ladak in the cultivated valleys, between 8800′ and 12,200′.

Material examined. Eighteen birds from Ladak; twenty-seven from the Vale of Kashmir (*A. a. guttata*); nine from Turkestan and Baluchistan (*A. a. inconspicua*); seven from Southern Tibet (*A. a. inopinata*).

Note.—*Alauda triborhyncha* Hodgson (nomen nudum), but subsequently described (Horsfield & Moore, Cat. Birds E. I. C. Mus. ii. p. 467, 1856, Nepal), must apply to the rufescent Lark of Nepal and Sikkim, if such indeed is separable from *Alauda arvensis gulgula*. *A. a. lhamarum* is a paler greyer bird than Sikkim and Nepal birds (seven examined in fresh plumage). The bird figured in Hume & Henderson's 'Lahore to Yarkand,' pl. xxviii., as "*Alauda*

triborhyncha" is in all likelihood one of Hume's own specimens from Ladak. It is not red enough for topotypical "*triborhyncha*."

The Hon. Masauji Hachisuka exhibited and made remarks on an aberration of *Phasianus*:—

The female Pheasants which I am showing here are all British-killed specimens—one came from Norfolk and the others from Tring and Cambridge.

They are very dark in colour, and no doubt are an excessively pigmented variety, probably due to irregular chromosome distribution. About a dozen specimens of this aberration are known, and it appears to be confined to the British Isles. Whether all these were produced from normal parents it is impossible to say, but probably all the parents were different, and one is struck by their similarity.

Abnormal males of the same type are also known, and there are three specimens in the British Museum and one at Tring.

Although no opportunity has yet occurred of making a histological examination of the genitalia, it is obviously shown by their external characters that these aberrations were not due to sexual disturbance.

It has been suggested that this aberration is a product of hybridization of closely related species or geographical races, and in this connection *Phasianus versicolor* comes to one's mind, since it is the darkest of all known true Pheasants.

Since the introduction of Ring-necked Pheasants into this country in the middle of the last century, the Black-necked or so-called Old English Pheasants have all become mixed with them, and it is now quite impossible to find any pure examples. It seems, therefore, the parents of these dark Pheasants were almost certainly not of a pure breed ; but the mixture of different blood is not, however, a direct cause to produce this result.

In regard to the suggestion of hybridization, we know that the hybrids between *P. colchicus* and *P. versicolor* are very much larger birds than *P. colchicus*, and as the measurements of the specimens I show here correspond strictly to *colchicus* probably hybridization has very little, if anything, to do with the production of this variation.

Information is wanted as to whether the dark form breeds true ; but as one's hypothesis I believe that the bird will do so, as it seems to me the occurrence of *Chrysolophus pictus* mut. *obscurus* (Schlegel) and *Pavo cristatus* mut. *nigripennis* Sclater corresponds exactly to the present case. It may be perhaps right to consider this as a case of mutation, but before coming to a definite conclusion I hope breeding experiments will be carried out.

The occurrence of this aberration is quite unknown in Japan or elsewhere where the Pheasants are indigenous.

Nothing has been published about the melanistic dimorphic of the genus *Phasianus* before.

Description of the plumage :—

♂. Colour of the crown deep bottle-green. Upper neck as like as an ordinary Pheasant's, no white ring, upper part of the body something like *P. versicolor*, but no blue tinge on the back ; each feather is more patterned, like *P. colchicus*, and has a strong gloss of green ; shoulder buff, like most English Pheasants. Ventral surface uniformly blackish-blue with a strong gloss of purple or green. Many feathers on the breast and flank have very distinct buff-coloured shafts. It is more pronounced on the flank, and some feathers are much like those of the ♀, only the tip of each feather has a very wide highly-coloured portion which is metallic bluish-green with a patch of deep reddish-brown on each web. Tail much like that of an ordinary English Pheasant, but with a metallic-green tinge along the edge.

♀. The feathers are mottled with black and deep brown, with four or five bars right across the feather (instead of spots or arrowhead-shape of ordinary Pheasant) buffish in colour. Lower neck and edges of tail-feathers have a very deep metallic-green shade. At first glance it looks like a chocolate-coloured bird, something like *Lagopus scoticus*.

The Hon. M. Hachisuka also described the following new form of Night-Heron :—

Nycticorax caledonicus major, subsp. nov.

Birds from Mindanao are distinctly larger than any specimen from Luzon and other North Philippine Islands. This new race exceeds in size *N. c. manillensis*, the wing being 24 mm. longer, the tail 9 mm., and the tarsus 3 mm. The measurement of the type-specimen is :—Wing 336 mm., tail 130, tarsus 90, bill 73. In colouring it is indistinguishable from *N. c. manillensis*, except that the mandible, which in *N. c. manillensis* is always black, in *N. c. major* is paler along the lower part of lower mandible, which is a character of all other subspecies of *N. caledonicus*.

Type in the British Museum : ♂, Zamboanga, Mindanao (*J. B. Steere*). Reg. No. 1896.6.6.1384.

Distribution. Mindanao.

Material examined. Fifteen skins from the Philippine Is.

Nycticorax caledonicus subsp. ?

A single specimen from Palawan, also in the British Museum, has a very short bill, 67 mm., height 23 mm., and is very like *N. c. crassirostris*, but the plumage and the measurements of feathers correspond to *N. c. manillensis*.

The birds from Truk are fully discussed by Mr. Momiyama ('Birds of Micronesia,' pp. 56–64, O. S. J. 1922), and according to what he says the birds of Caroline Islands ought to belong to *N. c. pelewensis* Mathews.

Black or white-coloured ornamental breeding-plumes are considered to be the chief subspecific character (Cat. Birds, vol. xxvi. p. 146), but this is only dimorphic, and one type is found very rarely in a locality where the other type is commonly found.

Colour of the bill in *N. c. hilli* is stated and figured as black by Mathews (Birds of Austr. vol. iii. p. 460, pl. 193), but the black bill is exceedingly rare among *hilli*, and generally the greater part of the lower mandible is pale in colour.

Smoky-coloured ornamental plumes are found among *Nycticorax nycticorax* in Japan.

Mr. G. L. Bates described a new genus of Starling from N.W. Cameroon :—

Among the birds collected on my recent trip was the Glossy Starling, discovered by Riggenbach in 1909 in N.W. Cameroon and described by Reichenow as *Spreo torquatus*. The reason why Reichenow put it in the genus *Spreo*, which it so little resembles in its coloration or its proportions, must have been lack of full knowledge of both sexes ; he had adult males and immature birds.

Chapin discovered what is apparently the same species in the Ituri District of Belgian Congo in 1913, and named it *Stilbopsar leucothorax* (see Bulletin Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. xxxv. p. 23). The genus *Stilbopsar* was created by Reichenow for his *S. stuhlmanni* ; but this latter bird may well be placed in the genus *Pœoptera*.

"*Spreo torquatus*," however, cannot go into *Pœoptera*, differing far more from Reichenow's *Stilbopsar stuhlmanni* than that does from *Pœoptera lugubris*, the typical species of *Pœoptera*. These differences are shown in the following table :—

Pœoptera lugubris.	*Pœoptera stuhlmanni* (*Stilbopsar stuhlmanni* of Reichenow).	*Grafisia torquata* (*Spreo torquatus* of Reichenow).
Bill somewhat depressed and Flycatcher-like.	Bill as in *Pœoptera lugubris.*	Bill not depressed—shaped as in *Spreo.*
Feet weak for the Family.	Feet as in *P. lugubris.*	Feet strong, as in *Spreo* and the Family generally.
Tail much longer than the wing, and much graduated.	Tail not quite as long as the wing ; graduated.	Tail rather long, but not graduated.
Plumage silky and decomposed, with barbs smooth and hair-like.	Plumage silky etc., as in *P. lugubris.*	Plumage firm, not decomposed, somewhat scaly in appearance.
Colour in the male glossy black.	Colour in the male glossy black.	Male glossy black, but the feathers glossy on the margins only. A wide white band on the crop.
Female grey, with a chestnut wing-pattern.	Female grey, with a chestnut wing-pattern.	Female grey, with narrow whitish feather-edges ; no wing-pattern.

I therefore propose

Grafisia, gen. nov.,

for Reichenow's *Spreo torquatus*, calling it *Grafisia torquata*. The characters of the new genus are given in the table above.

Mr. Bates also described the following new forms: —

Diaphorophyia ansorgei harterti, subsp. nov.

Adult female. Three specimens from the forest about Bitye in S. Cameroon, the first of which was collected in 1906 (see 'Ibis,' 1907, p.449 & pl. x.), differ from the still unique type-specimen of *Diaphorophyia ansorgei* as follows:—The upper parts are a little darker, and especially the tail is of a darker glossy green; the reddish-chestnut patch on the underside, besides being less extensive and mostly confined to the feathers of the throat and crop, is also of a lighter shade than in typical *D. ansorgei*. The three female specimens of the new race are all a little larger than the one of *D. ansorgei*.

Iris dark brown; feet blue-grey; bill black; eye-wattle light green.

Measurements:—

	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
No. 1444 (Feb. 1906).	60 mm.	29 mm.	17 mm.	14·5 mm.
No. 2923 (Mar. 1908).	59 „	29 „	16·5 „	12·5 „
No. 7769 (April 1924).	58·5 „	26 „	16·5 „	13 „

Type: No. 7769, ♀, Bitye, 8 April, 1924.

Adult male. A single specimen, obtained along with the female—the two were in the company of birds of various kinds, catching insects in the forest,—is a very different-looking bird from the female, having the whole underside golden-yellow, as has the male of *Diaphorophyia graueri*, another member of the same group. It differs from males of *D. graueri* in having the upper parts and especially the head darker green, the tail darker and bluer glossy green (or blue-green), and the underparts of not quite so bright a yellow as in *graueri*, but very slightly washed with brownish.

Iris as in female, but with an inner light ring next the pupil ; feet, bill, eye-wattle as in the female.

Measurements. No. 7768 (April 1924): Wing 62 mm., tail 30, tarsus 16·5, culmen 12.

The female was compared above only with that of *D. ansorgei* ; it differs from female *D. graueri* also by having the upper parts more greyish and less olive, the tail darker, and the underparts with less of the chestnut-colour, and that of a lighter shade.

The only known specimen of *Diophorophyia graueri silvæ* Hartert & Someren, a male, has the upper parts more olive-green than either the present specimen or *D. graueri.*

I owe to Dr. Hartert the opportunity of comparing my specimens and those in the British Museum with the types of *ansorgei* and *silvæ,* which are at Tring, and also assistance in comparing them.

There are now four known races of *Diaphorophyia ansorgei* :—

Diaphorophyia ansorgei ansorgei Hartert, Bull. B. O. C. xv. p. 74 (1905) : Cabeça de Ladrões in Benguella.

D. a. harterti, antea : Bitye, S. Cameroon.

D. a. graueri Hartert, Bull. B. O. C. xxiii. p. 7 (1908) : 90 km. W. of L. Albert.

D. a. silvæ Hartert & Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xliii. p. 79 (1923) : Silwa, Kaimosa.

Notes on *Anthreptes seimundi.*

Measurements of the specimens of the small plain yellowish-olive Sun-bird called *Anthreptes seimundi* which have accumulated in the Museum from nearly all parts of the equatorial forest of Africa, together with some of my recent collection, show that there are three races ; and this conclusion is borne out by the difference in the yellow of the underside. Following is a summary of the wing and bill measurements of all these specimens (excluding immature ones) :—

Four males from Fernando Po, collected by Seimund :

Wing 56–57·5 mm., culmen 15–16. One female, wing 52·5. One old unsexed specimen collected by Fraser, wing 58, culmen 16.

Eighteen skins from S. Nigeria, the Semliki, Uganda, N. Angola, and S. Cameroon: eight males, wing 50–57 mm., but only one exceptionally large one above 53, culmen 13·5–15·5; ten females, wing 49–53, culmen 13·5–15·5.

Four old unsexed skins from Ashantee and Fantee: Wing 47–52, culmen 13·5–14 mm. These seem to be males, corresponding to the female specimens collected in Liberia and the Gold Coast by W. P. Lowe, and described by Mr. Bannerman as *Cinnyris kruensis*: wing 45, culmen 13.

We have here, then, three races :—

(1) *Anthreptes seimundi seimundi*.

Cinnyris seimundi Ogilvie-Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xxiii. p. 19: Fernando Po.

(2) *Anthreptes seimundi kruensis*.

Cinnyris kruensis Bannerman, Bull. B. O. C. xxix. p. 23: Kru Coast and Gold Coast.

(3) **Anthreptes seimundi minor**, subsp. nov.

This race is not only smaller than typical *A. seimundi*, but is also greener on the breast and flanks, leaving less yellow on the underside.

Type: No. 7553, ♂, Sanaga R., N. of Yaunde, Jan. 1924.

Anthreptes seimundi, though its bill is rather long and slender for the genus, agrees so well in style of coloration with *Anthreptes fraseri* that it may well go in the same genus and be the one with the slenderest bill in a series of species showing all gradations. But the other very small olivaceous Sun-bird, *Cinnyris batesi*, is more like the larger plain Sun-birds, such as *Cinnyris* (*Chalcomitra*) *obscurus*, in having dark light-tipped rectrices &c., and, besides, has the bill a little more curved than *A. seimundi*: hence it may be left in the genus *Cinnyris*. The two genera have thus the gulf

partly bridged between them by these two small species; but the narrow gap between *seimundi* and *batesi* still separates the genera.

Nilaus afer camerunensis Neumann, J. f. O. 1907, p. 364.

This race has hitherto been known only from two female specimens—the one on which Neumann based his original description, from Yaunde, and one collected at Ngaundere in 1922 (see 'Ibis,' 1924, p. 539). Having now four more specimens of this very distinct race, as well as a small series of *N. afer afer*, shot further north, I give the following points of distinction between the two, applying both to the female and to the hitherto undescribed male:—

(1) The throat and crop in *camerunensis* are greyish white, and are marked by indistinct dark hair-like lines. (Neumann noted these lines in the female; they are in the male also.)

(2) The white loral spot is small and is greyish-white, not pure white as in *N. afer afer*.

(3) The outer vane of the outermost rectrices, in the male, is white only in the middle third; in *N. a. afer* it is nearly all white.

(4) The browner parts in general, in both sexes of *N. a. camerunensis*, are of a deeper shade.

(5) The birds are a little larger:

Wing in two males of *N. a. camerunensis* 82, 84·5; culmen 18.

Wing in three females of *N. a. camerunensis* 79, 80, 82; culmen 17, 18.

Wing in my six specimens of *N. a. afer*: males, 79–81; females, 75–78·5.

A bird collected by B. Alexander, R.C. Mission, Ubangi R., ♀, seems to belong to *camerunensis*.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard exhibited two clutches, each of three eggs, of Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), taken by A. D. Henderson near Belvedere Alberta, Canada, on May

25th, 1925, and Fort Assiniboine district, and made the following remarks :—

When Prof. Rowan went to Canada I asked him to make a special effort to obtain eggs of this rare Gull, as no authenticated eggs had reached this country since the time of R. McFarlane, about 1864.

Weights and Measurements of each Egg.

Clutch E.			*Clutch A.*		
No.	mg.	mm.	No.	mg.	mm.
1....	1·657	48·5×34·5	1....	1·490	47×35
2....	1·740	49×35	2....	1·657	49×35·5
3....	1·660	50×34·4	3....	1·579	47×35·2

Many eggs in British collections are probably small eggs of Black-headed Gull (*L. ridibundus*), the only species with which they might *possibly* be confused. I therefore make a comparative study of the eggs of the two species.

Comparative Systematic Synopsis.

L. philadelphia.	*L. ridibundus.*
Ground-colour.	
Pale olivaceous-green and brown.	Olivaceous-brown-yellow-green, and grey in various shades.
Colour of markings.	
Blackish-brown.	Brown, blackish-brown.
Underlying markings.	
Greyish-brown, tinged purplish, when fresh.	Pale purplish-brown in varying shades, according to ground-colour.
Measurements.	
Bunyard's.	Rey's.
Average 48·4×34·9 mm., 6 eggs.	Average 52·6×36·8 mm., 53 eggs.
Max. 50×34·4 mm.	Max. 57·8×38·7 mm.
Min. 47×35 mm.	Min. 47·5×35·4 mm.
Weights.	
Bunyard's.	Rey's.
Average 1·630 mg.	Average 2·269 mg., 53 eggs.
Max. 1·740 mg.	
Min. 1·490 mg.	

Texture of Shell.

Finely granulated.	Coarsely granulated.
Show considerable amount of gloss.	Less glossy to mat.

Shape.

Clutch A, broad pointed ovals; clutch E less broad, more pointed.	Show much variation in large series.

General Remarks.

Exactly the same shade of ground-colour does not occur in *L. ridibundus,* and the markings are roundish and evenly distributed. The texture of the shell is very distinctive and easily distinguished from that of *ridibundus* eggs.

In general appearance they are much more closely allied to some forms of the eggs of *Limosa lapponica.*

It must be borne in mind that the foregoing descriptions are from comparatively freshly taken eggs.

I am entirely indebted to my friend Prof. Rowan for this unique exhibit, and to Mr. Henderson for the acquisition of clutch A ; clutch E is being returned to Prof. Rowan after exhibition.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard also exhibited the nests of *L. philadelphia,* which were found situated in Spruce, about 8–9 ft. up, on horizontal limbs, against the trunk ; they are rather flat structures, made from Tamarac twigs, a few spruce sprigs, dry grass, and lined with beard moss-lichen.

The trees were situated on the edge of a small pond in a muskeg. Photographs taken by Mr. Henderson were also shown.

[Note.—A full description of the breeding of this Gull by Prof. Rowan has already appeared (Bull. Brit. Oolog. Association, vol. i. No. 10, p. 112, 1926).—Editor.]

Mr. P. F. Bunyard further exhibited a series of four clutches, each of four eggs, from Mr. Massey's collection of the Semi-palmated Sandpiper. *E. pusillus* from Victoria Land and Alaska ; and from his own collection six clutches of four, and one of three, eggs of the American Stint,

T. minutilla, from Labrador, for comparison, and made the following remarks :—

The Semi-palmated Sandpiper was added to the British list in 1907 on the strength of one Kentish record, and until fairly recently very little was known about nidification or the eggs. It appears to be doubtful as to whether the breeding-range extends as far East as Labrador, and my suspicions that the eggs from there in the Farn collection were *T. minutilla* (Bull. B.O.C. 1922, p. 128) have now been confirmed. *T. minutilla* appears to breed earlier than *E. pusillus*, and in my opinion the eggs of the two species can be separated easily.

Comparative Systematic Synopsis.

E. pusillus.	*T. minutilla.*
Ground-colour.	
Pale greenish.	Whitish-buff, pale brown.
Colour of markings.	
Brownish-black.	Brown, brownish-black.
Underlying markings.	
Greyish, tinged mauve.	Greyish-brown, very inconspicuous.
Measurements.	
Average 29·5×21·1 mm., 16 eggs. Max. 31×21·4 mm. Min. 28·2×21 mm.	Average 28·6×20·8 mm., 39 eggs. Max. 30·2×21·2 mm. Min. 27·2×20·3 mm.
Weights.	
Average 289·2 mg. Max. 30·7 mg. Min. 25·0 mg.	Average 227 mg. Max. 332 mg. Min. 235 mg.
Texture of Shell.	
More coarsely granulated and glossy.	Very finely granulated, glossy to mat.
Shape.	
Sharply pyriform.	Pyriform, more elongate.
Date.	
June 18th–July 16th.	June.

General Remarks.

With the eggs of both species the markings are larger and more numerous towards the large ends, and there is a strong tendency to heavily pigmented caps.

T. minutilla has two distinct forms, one having closely and evenly distributed stipples, the other as above; the former does not appear to occur in eggs of *E. pusillus*, and they do not resemble the eggs of *Limicola falcinellus*, as described in the 'Practical Handbook,' but closely resemble in miniature the greenish ground form of *Tringa alpina*.

The somewhat bizarre series of *E. pusillus* in the National Museum, with the exception of McFarlane's, require careful comparative verification, the three eggs from Labrador, *ex* the Crowley coll., probably belong to *T. minutilla*.

The two eggs figured in Catalogue of Birds' Eggs, Brit. Mus. ii. pl. ii. figs. 6 & 7, are certainly not typical, and, as already stated, No. 7, which is finely stippled, does not appear to occur in *E. pusillus* eggs.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard also made the following statement in continuation of his remarks at the B. O. C., on Feb. 10th, on the Sussex clutch of Tawny Pipit, *Anthus campestris*, exhibited by Mr. Jourdain at the January meeting:—

Mr. Jourdain said at the February Meeting, in reply to my remarks, that this Tawny Pipit record was not a Bristow record.

I have been in communication with Mr. Bristow, and he writes me under date March 8th, 1926, as follows:—

"In reply to your letter *re* the clutch of three Tawny Pipits' eggs, it must be the clutch I took myself on the Camber Golf Course, near Rye Harbour, on May 23/1925, I have a rough note to that effect. I have a recollection of the Rev. Walpole Bond calling with a friend, Col. Beauchamp, after a visit to the Fairlight Cliffs, to view the Peregrines a few years ago, and amongst others I mentioned taking these Tawny Pipits."

This proves conclusively that Mr. Jourdain's clutch is the

one and the same offered to me by Mr. Bristow, and the one and only clutch taken by him.

The question of the date is more or less immaterial, my point is to confirm that this record is one of Mr. Bristow's.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst sent the following descriptions of new races of Indian birds :—

Garrulax leucolophus hardwickii, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Garrulax leucolophus leucolophus* in being more rufescent above and darker on the flanks and underparts, less olivaceous, in having no white on the abdomen, and in being slightly smaller.

Type in the British Museum. ♂. Naga Hills, 29 March, 1876, *ex* Godwin-Austen Coll. Reg. No. 1895.7.14.2301.

Distribution. Assam and N. Burmah.

Obs. The typical form occurs from Simla, through Garhwal and Kumaon to Nepal. Sikkim birds are rather nearer the typical race than to *hardwickii*, but are intermediate.

Material examined and Measurements. Eighteen from Simla east to Nepal: wing 133–143 mm. Fifteen from Sikkim: wing 128–136, once 143. Twenty-nine from Assam and N. Burma: wing 124–135.

Niltava sundara whistleri, subsp. nov.

Differs from *Niltava sundara sundara* as follows :—In the male the chestnut underparts, especially the vent and under tail-coverts, are usually paler. In the female the upper parts are more olive-grey and paler; tail and upper tail-coverts paler chestnut; edges to wings paler, more olivaceous rufous; throat, breast, and flanks more greyish olive instead of olive-brown.

Type in the British Museum. ♀. Murree, 10th July, 1873, *F. Stoliczka.* Reg. No. 91.7.22.40.

Distribution. N.W. Himalaya, Murree to Mussooree.

Material examined. Large series Nepal and Sikkim; many males and ten females from the N.W. Himalayas.

Dr. C. B. Ticehurst also communicated the following:— In 'The Ibis' (1923, p. 5) I threw doubts on Buturlin's race of Yellow-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola werœ*), as Buturlin included in his distribution of this race the White Sea and Petchora, and, as I explained, there seemed to me no difference between birds thence and those from Eastern Siberia, whence came Pallas's type. Buturlin, however, described his race from Simbirsk in S.E. Russia, and the few birds I have seen thence seem distinct and accord with Buturlin's description, as also do birds from Altai and Turkestan (Djarkend and Tischkan). All these are small males, wing 80–85 mm., and have the flanks yellow like the abdomen; whereas birds from Petchora, Krasnoyarsk, Yenesay, Mongolia, and Manchuria are larger males (wing 85–90 mm.), and have the flanks washed with grey and usually more white on the wing. This was pointed out by Prof. Sushkin in much more detail (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. vol. xxxviii. no. 1, pp. 37–8). But what I wish to particularly draw attention to is the fact that all the Wagtails of this species (excluding *calcarata*) in N.W. India are *M. c. werœ* and in N.E. India *M. c. citreola*.

Indian Distribution:—

M. c. werœ. Forty males: wing 77–85 mm. Beluchistan, Afghanistan, Sind, N.W.F.P., Punjab, Unit. Prov., Rajputana, Bombay, Kamptee in Central Prov. (one).

M. c. citreola. About thirty males: wing 88–93 mm. Nepal, Bhutan, Bengal, Assam, and Burma.

Dr. G. C. Low showed a specimen of a Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) which he had shot on the 5th December, 1925, at Poyle Farm, Colnbrook, Bucks. There was hard frost at the time and the bird, in company with a green Plover, was trying to get food in a field where a man was ploughing.

It proved to be an adult male in perfect condition and of large size. There was no sign of injury or other abnormality about it. This late appearance in December is worthy of record.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, May 12th, 1926, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine must inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the Meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. F. Witherby, *Chairman.* N. B. Kinnear, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

25 MAY 1926 PURCHASED

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

Board Room

BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY ZOOLOGY

20 JUL 1926 PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

Nos. CCCVI. & CCCVII.*

The three-hundred-and-second Meeting of the Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W., on Wednesday, June 9th, 1926.

Chairman : H. M. Wallis.

Members present :—W. Shore Baily ; E. C. Stuart Baker ; D. A. Bannerman ; F. J. F. Barrington ; S. Boorman ; H. B. Booth ; P. F. Bunyard ; A. L. Butler ; Dr. F. M. Chapman ; Hon. G. L. Charteris ; Sir Percy Z. Cox ; R. H. Deane ; Captain F. W. Dewhurst ; Major S. S. Flower ; A. F. Griffith ; Rev. J. R. Hale ; Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain ; N. B. Kinnear (*Editor*) ; J. Spedan Lewis ; Dr. G. C. Low (*Hon. Sec. & Treas.*) ; Dr. P. R. Lowe ; Dr. N. S. Lucas ; G. S. Ludlam ; C. W. Mackworth-Praed ; Lt.-Col. H. A. F. Magrath ; E. G. B.

* [Owing to the General Strike, the May meeting of the Club was not held, but to keep up the sequence of the numbers of the 'Bulletin' it has been considered advisable to count the present one as double, giving it two numbers accordingly.—Ed.]

Meade-Waldo ; Col. & Mrs. Meinertzhagen ; D. W. Musselwhite ; J. L. Chaworth Musters ; T. H. Newman ; G. H. R. Pye-Smith ; F. R. Ratcliff ; R. H. Read ; C. B. Rickett ; Lord Rothschild ; W. L. Sclater ; D. Seth-Smith ; H. Stevens ; Major A. G. L. Sladen ; C. G. Talbot-Ponsonby ; B. W. Tucker ; R. Ware ; C. de Worms.

Visitors :—E. de V. Boult ; R. J. Clough ; F. W. Flattely ; J. H. Fleming ; R. O'D. Good ; A. H. Harkness ; G. E. Lodge ; C. F. Muirhead ; B. K. Smith ; V. O. Williams.

Barro Colorado Island as a Station for the Study of Tropical Bird-Life.

Dr. Frank M. Chapman gave an address, illustrated with lantern-slides, on the new Tropical Research Station situated on Barro Colorado, the largest of the islands formed by the damming of the Chagres River in constructing the Panama Canal. It has an area of about 3100 acres, is hilly in character, reaching an elevation of 530 feet above the sea (450 above Gatun Lake) and is densely covered with forest, much of it first-growth. On a promontory, 100 feet above the lake, the Institute for Research in Tropical America has constructed on Barro Colorado several buildings wherein biologists may find comfortable lodgings and facilities for the prosecution of their studies in the field and in the laboratory.

The station is open throughout the year ; it has proved to be as habitable and healthful in the wet season as in the dry, and problems may therefore be pursued relieved of the handicaps and restrictions often imposed by climate in the humid tropics. Barro Colorado is not a collecting-station, but a place where tropical life may be studied under essentially primeval conditions ; where one may feel assured, therefore, that his subject is in a practically natural environment.

The ornithologist will not come here to make a collection, but to study the habits of birds and their relations to other forms of life. Somewhat over 400 species of birds have been recorded from the Canal Zone. A large proportion of these occur on Barro Colorado. The Caribbean and Pacific shores may be reached in two hours from the island, or one may penetrate still unexplored tracts beyond the Canal Zone in the Republic of Panama. There is thus accessible a vast and diversified area.

The conditions under which students may avail themselves of the facilities to be found at Barro Colorado may be learned on application to Dr. Thomas Barbour, Chairman of the Committee, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

An Ornithological Reconnaissance in Southern Chile.

Dr. Chapman then went on to tell of his journey to Chile, which was made primarily with the object of tracing the range of certain birds of the arid Temperate and Paramo Zones of Ecuador to the regions whence it is believed they have reached Ecuador. The Condor, for example, is rarely seen below an altitude of 10,000 feet in Ecuador, but in southern Chile it is found at sea-level. Again, *Phrygilus alaudinus* and *Patagona gigas* of the Temperate Zone in Ecuador (alt. 9000–12,000 ft.) were found in this zone at sea-level in Chile, while *Phrygilus unicolor* and *Oreotrochilus* of the Paramo Zone in Ecuador (alt. 12,000–15,000 ft.) are found in the Paramo Zone in central Chile (alt. 8000–9000 ft. to snow-line). Each of these species, true to its own zonal level, travels 2000 miles or more in latitude, but does not cross the few hundred feet of altitude that would take it from one zone into another.

The distribution of the genus *Araucaria* in Chile and elsewhere, and its occurrence as fossil in regions which are now treeless, was mentioned as an illustration of how little we know of the history of the south Temperate Zone forests and as a warning not to base conclusions in regard to the origin of the bird-life of this region solely on existing conditions.

A general review of the physiography of Chile was presented, the region between Puerto Montt and the Guaitecas Island, where in January 1924 a sixteen-day cruise was made with Lord William Percy and Mr. F. C. Walcott, being described in greater detail. Slides were shown of the Chilean Penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*), Kelp Goose (*Chloephaga hybrida*), and Steamer-Duck (*Tachyeres cinereus*). The Penguin was found nesting on densely forested islands associated with Paroquets (*Microsittace*) and Humming-birds (*Eustephanes galeritus*). Steamer-Ducks were common in the Guaitecas, many being accompanied by recently-hatched young. Among the hundreds of individuals observed not one was seen to fly, but in May and June, 1914, R. H. Beck, while collecting for the American Museum, saw large numbers of flying individuals of this species off Chiloe.

Dr. Chapman suggested that possibly these were young of the year, but added that on January 24, 1924, he saw a pair of adult birds (the male with the head and neck white) accompanied by one young, on a fresh-water pond in northern Tierra del Fuego, both of which, when flushed, took wing easily and flew out of sight towards the sea.

Dr. Chapman stated that neither in field nor study had he devoted especial attention to this species, and merely as a working hypothesis he ventured to advance the theory that there was but one species of Steamer-Duck, that young in their first winter always flew, that those individuals which nested on salt water, and hence on their feeding-grounds, lost the power of flight when they became fully mature, while those which nested on fresh water and went to the sea to feed retained the power of flight at all ages.

Mr. P. F. Bunyard made the following remarks on five clutches of eggs, from Mr. Massey's and his own collections, of the Færoe Snipe (*Capella gallinago fœroeensis*) from Iceland and the Færoes :—

This winter visitor has now been separated from the

Common Snipe (*C. g. gallinago*), and an examination of these eggs bears out the race, since they are larger and heavier than either the typical form or the American race (*C. g. delicata*).

Comparative Systematic Synopsis.

C. g. fœroeensis.		*C. g. delicata.*		*C. g. gallinago.*	
20 eggs (Bunyard).		11 eggs (Bunyard).		40 eggs (Rey).	
Measurements.	*Weights.*	*Measurements.*	*Weights.*	*Measurements.*	*Weights.*
mm.	mg.	mm.	mg.	mm.	mg.
41·0×29·2	856·1	39·6×28·2	827·2	39·8×28·1	800

In general appearance the eggs of *fœroeensis* resemble those of the other races, and all that can be said is that the shade of the ground-colour is paler.

Mr. Bunyard also exhibited five clutches of eggs, from Mr. Massey's and his own collections, of the Yellowshank (*Tringa flavipes*), from Alberta &c., and made the following remarks :—

This series is probably unique in this country. As some forms of the eggs slightly resemble those of the Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus totanus*), I give below a comparative statement of the eggs of the two species :—

T. flavipes.	*T. totanus totanus.*
Ground-colour.	
Pale buff, warm cream. Pale greenish.	Pale brown, reddish-brown. Buff, greenish.
Colour of markings.	
Rich brownish-black, tinged crimson.	Brownish-black, reddish-brown, pale brown.
Underlying markings.	
Grey in various shades, tinged mauve, conspicuous.	Ash-grey, reddish-grey, mostly inconspicuous.

Measurements (in mm.).

20 eggs (*Bunyard*).	44 eggs (*Rey*).
45×30—38·2×27·4.	48·2×30·5—41·3×31·1.
Average 42·1×29·0.	Average 44·72×30·42.

Weights (in mg.).

Bunyard's.	Rey's.
947—706.	Average 1·210.
Average 840·5.	

Texture of Shell.

Finely granulated.	Coarsely granulated.

Shape.

Sharply pyriform, sometimes distinctly flattened or concave just above the small end, distinctive.	Pyriform to ovoidal.

General Remarks.

The eggs of *T. flavipes* are characteristically closely allied to those of *T. nebularius*, except in size.

The distinctive shape of the eggs of *T. flavipes* appears to be fairly constant, and a reference to Poynting's plate ('Eggs of British Birds,' p. 215) confirms this peculiarity.

Mr. Bunyard also made the following correction :—

My note on the Sussex record of the eggs of *Anthus campestris* in the 'Bulletin' for April, no. cccv. p. 112, fourth paragraph, third line, should read May 23rd, 1905, *not* 1925.

Mr. A. F. Griffith exhibited on behalf of the owner two adult male Lesser Kestrels (*Falco naumanni*), both killed in Tresco, Isles of Scilly—one on March 3rd, 1891, the other on February 24th, 1926. Another was observed in Tresco in May 1925. The owner was disappointed that the second had stupidly been shot by the keeper. Both of these were stuffed from the flesh by Messrs. Pratt of Brighton.

Two Tree-Sparrows (*Passer montanus*)—one a male, the other so damaged that the sex could not be determined—were shot on the Island of Rosevear (Scilly), April 24th, 1926,

and sent to Messrs. Pratt by the same owner to be stuffed. These are the first recorded for the Isles of Scilly.

Mr. A. F. Griffith also exhibited two birds from the Booth Museum at Brighton which had been recently identified by Dr. Hartert as follows :—

Calandrella minor kukunoorensis (Przew.), ♀. Lesser Short-toed Lark.

Only three other specimens of this rare form are known to exist in England, all males—two in the British Museum and one at Tring.

This bird was taken by a bird-catcher near Brighton in November 1874 and brought to Swaysland, the Brighton bird-stuffer, by whom it was sold to Mr. Monk, on whose death it was acquired, with the rest of his collection, for the Booth Museum. It is recorded in Borrer's 'Birds of Sussex,' p. 113.

Until recently this specimen was assumed to be *Calandrella brachydactyla*, but the late Mr. M. J. Nicol, in May 1919, noticed that it was not that species, but a form of *Calandrella minor*, a new bird to the British list, and asked that it should be compared and recorded. A new edition of the Illustrated Catalogue of the Collection was commenced in 1914, but, stopped by the War, was taken in hand again last year. Thus it was not till February last that the bird was submitted to Dr. Hartert.

Calidris acuminata. Siberian Pectoral Sandpiper.

Shot on the coast of Kent. From the Borrer Collection. Mr. Borrer labelled this bird as a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, but, recognizing that it must have been wrongly named, I sent it to Dr. Hartert who has most kindly identified it.

It is unfortunate that no better details of the capture of this bird are available, but, knowing the great care taken by Mr. Borrer in refusing to admit to his British collection any specimen not properly authenticated, I feel very sure that his cautious note, "said to have been shot on the coast of

Kent," may be trusted, indicating that he had not succeeded in communicating with the actual shooter.

The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain stated that Mr. Bunyard's remarks in the 'Bulletin' (pp. 74–75 and 112–113) had no bearing on his published communication on the breeding of the Tawny Pipit in England (pp. 55–56), but referred to statements made in conversation by Mr. Bunyard and attributed to himself. He was aware that the eggs were taken and both parent birds shot by Mr. Bristowe, but did not accept the record on that evidence alone, but because it was independently confirmed by that of Mr. M. J. Nicol and others.

With regard to the exhibition of eggs of *Ereunetes pusillus* and *Erolia minutilla* (pp. 110–112), Mr. Jourdain pointed out that Mr. Bunyard's series of the latter species contained five clutches from the Farn collection, which were taken by the Rev. W. W. Perrett in Labrador and identified by him as *Ereunetes pusillus* (see Bull. B. O. C. xlii. pp. 126–127, where Mr. Bunyard admits that he altered the name on the ground of the appearance of the eggs !). Such material ought never to be used in establishing the characteristics of the eggs of a species, and tends to bring Oology into contempt.

The breeding of *Ereunetes* in Labrador queried by Mr. Bunyard has been clearly proved by the discovery of young in down as well as eggs. Mr. Perrett's notes show clearly that he discovered both species breeding on his collecting-ground in Labrador.

Mr. G. L. Bates sent the following description of two new subspecies from the Cameroon :—

Streptopelia vinacea savannæ, subsp. nov.

Birds of this species from the high savanna-belt of Cameroon are strikingly dark in colour, especially when compared with the whitish race from the sandy plains further north, which Reichenow has recently separated as *S. v. grotei* (Orn. Monatsb. 1926, p. 54). The difference of

the savanna-belt birds from the typical *vinacea* of Senegal is not so great, but is still sufficiently evident. The Cameroon highland birds are darker in all parts—outer edges of the wing-coverts merely grey (not whitish) ; throat merely a light shade of the vinaceous colour of the crop (not white) ; feathers of the lower belly and vent cream-colour (not nearly white).

Type, No. 8212, Bates coll. (6 Feb., 1925), ♂, Babungo, Upper Nun Valley. Alt. 3700 feet.

Measurements same as those of typical *vinacea* and *v. grotei*.

I noticed, even on the field, the great difference between the birds of the south, or savanna-belt, and those of the north ; but I unfortunately did not save all of my birds shot in the south, and have now as specimens only the type and one obtained at Tibati. This scanty material would not have been considered sufficient foundation for a new race if it had not been supported by a remark of Dr. Reichenow's at the end of his description of *S. v. grotei* (l. c. supra) : "In the high country of S. Adamawa (Tibati) there appears to live a much darker form."

Cisticola robusta santæ, subsp. nov.

Most nearly allied to *C. robusta nuchalis* Rchw. from Uganda and Unyoro, but the feathers of the head merely of a darker chestnut-brown in the middle than at the edges, or a very little blackish in the middle, making the head only rather faintly streaked ; the unstreaked nuchal collar also is of a darker shade of chestnut ; the flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts are of a deeper brownish-buff than in *nuchalis* or in *ambigua*. In the streaking of the head the new race resembles *C. robusta ambigua* of E. Africa, but that is a larger bird, as is *C. r. robusta* of Abyssinia. *C. robusta angolensis*, a race of which I saw specimens in the Tring collection, has a uniform chestnut head, not at all streaked, and it also is larger than the new race.

Seven specimens (males), all shot in the mountains of N.W. Cameroon, about Bamenda and Kumbo, at altitudes

of from 5,500 to 7,000 feet : these include the " four other specimens of *C. nuchalis* " referred to in ' The Ibis,' 1924, p. 238. They were shot on different trips, at opposite times of the year—four in August and September, and three in January and February. They are all alike in plumage, as are also specimens of the other races of *C. robusta* examined : this species seems to have no seasonal plumage-change.

Measurements of six (all males) : Wing 64–66, tail 46–49, tarsus 25–27, culmen 11·5–13.

Type, No. 8162 Bates coll., Bambulue, N.W. Cameroon, 29 Jan., 1925.

Mr. David Bannerman sent the following description of a new Glossy Starling from Pemba Island which he proposed to name

Lamprocolius corruscus vaughani, subsp. nov.

Adult male. Differs from *L. c. corruscus* Nordm. and *L. c. mandanus* van Som. in having the entire head, including the hind crown, glossy purple instead of green or blue-green ; the sides of the cheeks are purple like the head, and there is therefore no contrast between the cheeks and the ear-coverts as in the typical bird. The lores in all three races are velvety black.

The green mantle is sharply defined from the purple hind crown, instead of the one gradually merging into the other. On the under surface the reflections on the chin and throat are rather more blue than in the other forms when viewed at the same angle ; the lower breast, belly, and flanks are of a deeper violet, and in the six specimens before me lack the golden wash on the belly.

Compared with *L. c. mandanus*, the bill is longer and more slender (*L. c. corruscus* has the shortest and heaviest bill of the three).

Measurements. Bill (from front of nasal aperture to the tip) 12·5–14 ; wings 119–123 ♂, 113–116 ♀ ; tail (central rectrices) 94–100 ♂, 85–90 ♀ ; tarsus 25 mm.

Type in the British Museum (B.M. Reg. No. 1926.7.31.1).

♂ ad. Pemba Island. 15th June, 1925. J. H. Vaughan coll., in whose honour the bird is named.

I am indebted to Dr. Stresemann for comparing this bird with the Glossy Starlings in the Berlin Museum.

Distribution. As far as we know, this Glossy Starling is confined to Pemba Island, in the Zanzibar Protectorate. The Zanzibar bird, of which Mr. Vaughan obtained one skin, appears to be *L. c. mandanus*.

Mr. Bannerman also recorded the occurrence in Pemba Island of the Madagascan Striped Swallow,

Phedina borbonica madagascariensis.

The remarkable capture of two examples of this Swallow on November 1st, 1925, in Pemba Island is well worthy of record. Distingushed from *P. b. borbonica* by its lighter colour and white abdomen, there is no question as to the country of origin of the Pemba Island specimens.

Hitherto *P. b. madagascariensis* had been known only from Madagascar, where it is said to be plentiful, and the fact that it migrates up the East African coast and reaches Pemba Island is of considerable interest. Mr. Vaughan shot two examples: one, a female, is now in the British Museum, while the other, which was an immature bird in moult shot on the 10th of February, Mr. Vaughan presented to the Museum at Zanzibar.

It may not be generally known that Pemba or the Spice Island lies some 22 miles to the north-east of Zanzibar, from which, and also the mainland of Tanganyika Territory, it is separated by a channel of considerable depth. 38 miles in length by 13 in width, Pemba nowhere exceeds an altitude of 300 feet. Much of the land is given over to the cultivation of cloves, but a good deal of virgin growth still remains. Of its avifauna, which is not very numerous in point of species, it is remarkable that three birds appear to be indigenous—a beautiful Sun-bird (*Cinnyris pembæ* Reich.), a White-eye (*Zosterops vaughani*) described by myself a year ago, and the Glossy Starling described now. It is to be hoped that

Mr. Vaughan will continue his researches in the island, which have already led to so much of interest.

Col. Meinertzhagen sent the following review of *Siva strigula*, with the descriptions of two new subspecies :—

Siva strigula.

1. **Siva strigula simlaensis**, subsp. nov.

Crown paler, more lemon-rufous than *S. s. strigula*. Back with considerable but variable amount of grey. The chestnut mark on the central rectrices rarely reaches to the end of the proximal half of the feather and is often somewhat dilute and pale.

Type in the British Museum: ♂. Simla (*W. Davison*), 21. x. 1880. Reg. No. 86.10.1.6739.

Distribution. From the Simla Hills east to Almora and Kumaon.

Material examined. Forty birds from Simla, Mussoorie, Naini Tal, etc.

2. Siva strigula strigula.
Hodgson (1838 : Nepal).

Crown darker and lacking the lemon tinge of the preceding form. Back without any definite greyish. The chestnut on the central rectrices darker, better defined, and extending into the distal half of the feather, but not approaching within 24 mm. of the feather-tips.

Type in the British Museum.

Distribution. Nepal and Sikkim, up to 9000 feet in summer and down to 2800 feet in winter.

Material examined. Twenty-four birds from Nepal and Sikkim.

3. **Siva strigula victoriæ**, subsp. nov.

Very near *S. s. strigula*, with the forehead often darker. The chestnut of the tail as in *S. s. castaneicauda*, i. e., the chestnut mark always reaches to within 17 mm. of the feather-tips. The chestnut is of a deeper tone than

in the preceding races. Lores and ear-coverts grey (rarely dark grey), but never so dark (smoky-black) as in *S. s. castaneicauda*.

Type in the British Museum, no sex. Mount Victoria, Chin Hills, 7000′, 26.iii.1904 (*Rippon*). Reg. No. 1903.9.10.325.

Material examined. Twenty-seven birds from Mount Victoria, Burma.

Obs. Nine birds from the Southern Shan States are intermediate between 3 and 4, but nearest 3. Four birds from the Naga, one from the Daphla, and three from the Manipur Hills agree best with *S. s. victoriæ*.

4. Siva strigula castaneicauda.

Hume (1887 : Muleyit).

Similar to *S. s. victoriæ*, but with darker lores and ear-coverts which are smoky black.

Type in the British Museum.

Distribution. Only known from Muleyit.

Material examined. Four birds from Muleyit.

5. Siva strigula yunnanensis.

Rothschild (1921 : Lichiang Range).

Much darker and more slaty above than all preceding races. Tail as in 4, but the chestnut usually even darker. Lores and ear-coverts approaching 4, but not so dark.

Type at Tring.

Distribution. Lichiang Range, N.W. Yunnan, up to 12,000′ in summer.

Material examined. Thirty-nine birds.

6. Siva strigula malayana.

(Hartert.)

Darkest of all. Head dark rufous-grey, much darker than in *S. s. yunnanensis*. Back near that race, but slightly darker. Underparts much darker and more olive. Lores and ear-coverts very dark brown to black, and darker than in *S. s. castaneicauda*. Tail as in *S. s. yunnanensis*.

Type at Tring.

Distribution. Malay Peninsula, between 5,300 and 6,000 feet.

Material examined. Twenty-seven birds.

Obs. No birds from Siam have been examined.

Note.—In fresh specimens the underparts are suffused with various shades of brown or olive on a lemon-yellow ground. Specimens which have been in collections for some time lose in various degrees this ground-colour of lemon-yellow. A similar change of colour occurs in many Indian and Malayan birds which have either lemon or sulphur-yellow underparts. The fading seems to be directly due to light. The yellow sometimes changes to white and sometimes to lilac (*Urocissa*).

Mr. W. L. Sclater submitted the following note on the generic name of the Trumpeter Bullfinch :—

The generic name *Erythrospiza* is that usually applied to the Trumpeter Bullfinch (*Fringilla githaginea* Licht.).

This name was first introduced by Bonaparte on page 80 of a little-known pamphlet, 'Sulla seconda edizione del Regno Animale del Barone Cuvier,' printed at Bologna, according to the titlepage, in 1830, but not published till 1831, as can be proved by the inscription on the last page.

The species included in the genus were:

(1) *Fringilla purpurea* Gm.
(2) „ *frontalis* Say.
(3) *Pyrrhula githaginea* Tem.
(4) *Loxia sibirica* Falck.
(5) „ *rosea* Pall.
(6) „ *erythrina* Pall.
(7) *Pyrrhula synoica* Tem.
(8) *Loxia rubicilla* Less.

In 1840, Gray, in his 'List of the Genera of Birds' (1st ed., p. 48, 1840), designated the type of *Erythrospiza* as *Loxia erythrina*.

If this is accepted, *Erythrospiza* becomes a pure synonym of *Carpodacus* Kaup, 1829, and cannot be used for the Trumpeter Bullfinch.

The only available name for this last is

BUCANETES Cabanis, Mus. Hein. i. p. 164, 1851.

Type by monotypy, *Fringilla githaginea* Licht.

Mr. GREGORY M. MATHEWS sent the following alteration:—

Spiloglaux novæbritanniæ novæhibernicæ, new name for *Noctua variegata* Quoy & Gaimard, 1833; not of Jung, Alph. Verz. Schmett. ii. p. 256, 1792. *Locality.* New Ireland.

NOTICES.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday, October 13th, 1926, at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, 42–48 Great Portland Street, W. 1. The Dinner at 7 p.m.

Members intending to dine might kindly inform the Hon. Sec., Dr. G. C. Low, 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This will also be held at PAGANI'S RESTAURANT on Wednesday, October 13th, 1926, at 5.45 p.m. An Agenda and Balance Sheet will be issued in September.

[N.B.—Members who intend to make any communication at the next Meeting of the Club are requested to give notice beforehand to the Editor, Mr. N. B. Kinnear, at the Nat. Hist. Museum, South Kensington, and to place in his hands not later than at the Meeting MSS. for publication in the Bulletin.]

(Signed)

H. M. Wallis, *Chairman.* N. B. Kinnear, *Editor.* George C. Low, *Hon. Sec. & Treas.*

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